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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~PAGE 01 MONTRE 04387 01 OF 02 082128Z
ACTION IO-19

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-07	EUR-00	SS-00	OIC-02	AF-00
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2212
INFO FAA WASHDC PRIORITY
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
JCS WASHDC
USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL
FAA BRUSSELS
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AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY BEIJING
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY RIYADH
AMEMBASSY DAKAR

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE 920393

IS/FPC/CDR

Date. 9/18/96

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☐ DENY IN PART
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MR Cases Only:

EO Citations _____

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☐ CLASSIFY as ☐ S or ☐
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AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
IO MISSIONS COLLECTIVE

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REF ID: A66015

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ACTION IO-19

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-10	SS-00	CIAE-00	EB-00	DODE-00
	H-01	MSC-01	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	COME-00	SSO-00	HA-09
	L-03	AMAD-01	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-02	OMB-01	INRE-00
	ACDA-12	USIE-00	SP-02	DOEE-00	SNP-01	C-01	PRS-01
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O 150036Z JUL 88 ZFF4
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6819

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 05 USUN NEW YORK 02149

DEPT PLEASE PASS ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL, UNSC, IR, US
SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL: THE VICE PRESIDENT'S
STATEMENT ON THE IRANAIR INCIDENT, JULY 14

1. THERE FOLLOWS THE TEXT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT'S
STATEMENT IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL JULY 14 ON THE
IRANAIR INCIDENT.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

MR. PRESIDENT, THANK YOU FOR THE WARM WELCOME WHICH
YOU EXTENDED TO ME AND FOR RECEIVING ME IN THE OFFICE
OF THE PRESIDENT. I AM PLEASED THAT THE SECURITY
COUNCIL IS PRESIDED OVER THIS MONTH BY A
REPRESENTATIVE OF A COUNTRY WITH WHICH MY COUNTRY HAS
VERY CORDIAL RELATIONS, AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT YOUR
DIPLOMATIC SKILLS WILL ASSURE A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF
THIS DEBATE. WITH YOUR INDULGENCE, MR. PRESIDENT, I
WOULD LIKE TO SALUTE A FORMER COLLEAGUE OF MINE WITH
WHOM I SERVED IN THE UNITED NATIONS MANY YEARS AGO. I
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AM SPEAKING OF COURSE OF THE FORMER AMBASSADOR AND NOW
THE DISTINGUISHED SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THIS BODY,
JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR. ALL OF US AROUND THIS TABLE
HAVE GREAT RESPECT FOR HIS EFFORTS TO ENHANCE WORLD
PEACE.

MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THIS DISTINGUISHED
SECURITY COUNCIL: I HAVE COME HERE TODAY TO REPRESENT
THE UNITED STATES, AT THE REQUEST OF PRESIDENT REAGAN

DEPARTMENT OF STATE 920393 IS/FPC/CDR /65 Date: 1/10/12	
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BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ISSUES AT STAKE -- NOT JUST THE TERRIBLE HUMAN TRAGEDY OF IRANAIR 655, BUT THE CONTINUING CONFLICT BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE IN THE PERSIAN GULF.

HAVING BEEN THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THIS BODY, I KNOW WHAT A GRAVE RESPONSIBILITY THIS COUNCIL BEARS AND THE GOOD IT CAN DO WHEN IT ACTS WITH REALISM AND WISDOM. WE ARE IN URGENT NEED OF REALISM AND WISDOM NOW. AFTER TWO YEARS OF REJECTING, DISREGARDING A SOLEMN RESOLUTION OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND AFTER TWO YEARS OR MORE OF BERATING THIS BODY, IRAN COMES NOW WITH RECKLESS INTEMPERATE CHARGES AGAINST MY COUNTRY; ON BALANCE I EXPECT IT IS GOOD THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER APPEARED HERE TODAY BECAUSE MAYBE THIS BODY CAN NOW BE THE CATALYST TO END THE BLOODSHED AND BRING THE PEACE.

MR. PRESIDENT, THE PERSIAN GULF IS A REGION OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES AND THE ECONOMY OF THE WORLD. AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN FORCES -- NOT JUST AMERICANS -- ARE IN THE GULF, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE STATES OF THE AREA, TO MEET A VITAL NEED -- TO HELP

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ENSURE THE UNIMPEDED FLOW OF OIL AND TO KEEP NEUTRAL COMMERCE MOVING IN THE FACE OF A VERY REAL THREAT TO INNOCENT SHIPPING. THIS IS OUR LEGAL RIGHT.

IRANIAN MINES, DELIBERATELY SOWN, HAVE DISRUPTED INNOCENT PASSAGE AND DAMAGED UNARMED MERCHANT VESSELS AND A U.S. NAVAL SHIP IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS. SMALLBOAT ATTACKS OF IRAN ON NON-BELLIGERENT MERCHANT SHIPS CONTINUE UNABATED. THESE ACTIONS ARE IN BLATANT VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS, AND THEY GIVE THE LIE TO THE ASSERTIONS THAT IRAN SUPPORTS FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION IN THE GULF.

WE HAVE INCREASED THE SIZE OF OUR FORCES FROM TRADITIONAL LEVELS TO PROTECT U.S.-FLAG SHIPPING AND TO ASSIST OTHER NEUTRAL VESSELS UNDER UNLAWFUL ATTACK, WHEN THEY REQUEST ASSISTANCE. FIVE EUROPEAN NAVIES IN ADDITION TO OUR OWN -- A TOTAL OF SOME 43 SHIPS -- ARE NOW IN THE GULF TO COUNTER IRAN'S RECKLESS BEHAVIOR TOWARD NEUTRAL SHIPS ENGAGED IN LAWFUL COMMERCE. I AM PROUD OF OUR LEADERSHIP IN MEETING THIS CHALLENGE.

TOGETHER WE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE WILL KEEP THE PERSIAN GULF OPEN, NO MATTER WHAT THE THREAT. I AM HERE TO REAFFIRM TO THOSE WHO DEPEND ON US AND TO

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THOSE WHO WOULD THREATEN US, THAT WE WILL NOT ALTER
THIS COURSE.

MR. PRESIDENT, THE CRITICAL ISSUE CONFRONTING THIS
BODY IS NOT THE HOW AND WHY OF IRANAIR 655 WHICH I
WILL DISCUSS. IT IS THE CONTINUING REFUSAL OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO COMPLY
WITH RESOLUTION 598, TO NEGOTIATE AN END TO THE WAR

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS.
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	L-03	AMAD-01	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-02	OMB-01	INRE-00
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6820

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 05 USUN NEW YORK 02149

DEPT PLEASE PASS ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL, UNSC, IR, US
SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL: THE VICE PRESIDENT'S

WITH IRAQ, AND TO CEASE ITS ACTS OF AGGRESSION AGAINST
NEUTRAL SHIPPING IN THE PERSIAN GULF.

THE VICTIMS OF IRANAIR 655 ARE ONLY THE MOST RECENT
CASUALTIES OF A BRUTAL AND SENSELESS WAR THAT HAS
BROUGHT IMMENSE PAIN AND SUFFERING TO THE PEOPLE OF
BOTH SIDES.

IRAN LONG AGO COULD HAVE ACCEPTED, AND CAN STILL
ACCEPT, AN HONORABLE END TO THE WAR. AS A FIRST STEP,
IRAN SHOULD DECLARE ITS READINESS UNEQUIVOCALLY TO
COMPLY WITH RESOLUTION 598 -- TODAY, FOR THE FIRST
TIME, RIGHT HERE, NOW, BEFORE THIS BODY. IT CAN ACT
NOW TO END THE UNSPEAKABLE SACRIFICES THAT THE PEOPLE
OF BOTH IRAN AND IRAQ ARE BEING ASKED TO MAKE. WHAT
POSSIBLE OBJECTIVE COULD BE WORTH THE HUMAN SUFFERING
AND PAIN, THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF CASUALTIES, AND
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THE ECONOMIC DEVASTATION THAT THAT WAR HAS CAUSED ON
BOTH SIDES?

A PARTICULARLY HORRIFYING ASPECT OF THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR
IS THE INCREASINGLY ROUTINE USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS.
WHO CAN FORGET THE PICTURES OF ENTIRE FAMILIES LYING
DEAD IN THE STREETS OF THEIR VILLAGES, INNOCENT OF
ANYTHING, YET KILLED IN THIS SAVAGE WAY? THIS USE OF
CHEMICAL WEAPONS MUST STOP. LET ME MAKE A SPECIAL

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APPEAL HERE TODAY FOR ALL NATIONS TO ELIMINATE SUCH WARFARE. WHO CAN SLEEP AT NIGHT HAVING SEEN THAT PICTURE OF A MOTHER COVERING WITH HER OWN BODY THE BODY OF HER CHILD TRYING TO PROTECT THAT CHILD FROM THE HORROR OF INVISIBLE, INSIDIOUS DEATH.

ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, I WENT TO GENEVA IN 1984 TO PUT DOWN THERE A DRAFT TREATY BEFORE THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT TO BAN ALL CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS. I AM WELL AWARE THAT THERE ARE DIFFICULT VERIFICATION PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH BANNING THESE WEAPONS, BUT THIS MUST NOT DETER US FROM SEEKING AN END TO THAT MONSTROUS KIND OF WARFARE.

THE UNITED STATES WAS THE FIRST NATION PUBLICLY TO CONDEMN THE USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN THE WAR AS A BLATANT VIOLATION OF THE GENEVA PROTOCOLS. WE FULLY SUPPORT SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 612, WHICH DEMANDS AN IMMEDIATE END TO CHEMICAL WARFARE BY BOTH PARTIES. NO COUNTRY SHOULD THINK IT CAN USE CHEMICAL WEAPONS WITH IMPUNITY.

MR. PRESIDENT, WE HERE IN THE COUNCIL HAVE A SPECIAL
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RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP BRING THIS WAR TO AN END. ALMOST A YEAR AGO, ON JULY 20, 1987, THIS COUNCIL RESPONDED TO THE HOPES OF THE WORLD WITH THE UNANIMOUS ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 598. THE UNITED STATES PLAYED A LEADING ROLE IN THE ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION. ITS PROVISIONS ARE FAMILIAR. IT PROVIDES A COMPREHENSIVE FRAMEWORK FOR AN IMMEDIATE END TO THE WAR.

RESOLUTION 598 HAD A UNIQUE, MANDATORY CHARACTER. IN ADOPTING RESOLUTION 598, THE MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL KNEW EXACTLY WHAT THEY WERE DOING IN ORDERING AN IMMEDIATE END TO THE CONFLICT WITHOUT THE AGREEMENT OF EITHER PARTY.

ALMOST A YEAR HAS PASSED, AND THE BLOODSHED CONTINUES UNCHECKED. THE TIME HAS COME FOR ACTION TO BRING THIS WAR TO AN END.

I CALL TODAY ON BOTH SIDES TO ACCEPT AN IMMEDIATE AND COMPREHENSIVE PERMANENT CEASEFIRE -- ON LAND, ON SEA AND IN THE AIR. LET THAT BE THE FIRST STEP IN THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 598, LEADING DIRECTLY TO PROMPT WITHDRAWAL TO INTERNATIONAL BORDERS, RETURN OF ALL PRISONERS OF WAR, AND ESTABLISHMENT OF AN IMPARTIAL BODY TO LOOK INTO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONFLICT. LET THAT STOP THE

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BLOODSHED. LET THAT PAVE THE WAY FOR AN ENDURING
PEACEFUL RESOLUTION.

I HAD THE PRIVILEGE THIS MORNING OF MEETING WITH THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL TO COMMEND HIS TIRELESS EFFORTS TO
END THE WAR AND TO PROMISE OUR STRONG SUPPORT FOR HIS
MEDIATION EFFORTS. I URGE THE MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY
COUNCIL -- AND PARTICULARLY THE PERMANENT MEMBERS --

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	L-03	AMAD-01	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-02	OMB-01	INRE-00
	ACDA-12	USIE-00	SP-02	DOEE-00	SNP-01	C-01	PRS-01
	SCT-02	P-02	T-01	/079 W			

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6821

UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 05 USUN NEW YORK 02149

DEPT PLEASE PASS ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL, UNSC, IR, US
SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL: THE VICE PRESIDENT'S

TO DO LIKEWISE, AND TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THEY WILL NOT
SUPPORT EFFORTS TO DELAY THE IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION
OF RESOLUTION 598 IN ALL OF ITS PROVISIONS.

MR. PRESIDENT, WE MUST NOT LOSE SIGHT OF ONE BASIC
FACT: IRAQ HAS DECLARED ITS READINESS TO COMPLY WITH
RESOLUTION 598 AS A BASIS FOR A SETTLEMENT, AND IRAN
REGRETTABLY HAS NOT. INSTEAD OF EXPRESSING
WILLINGNESS TO COMPLY WITH THE RESOLUTION, AND
NEGOTIATING ITS IMPLEMENTATION IN GOOD FAITH, IRAN HAS
PLAYED FOR TIME AND MANEUVERED FOR DIPLOMATIC
ADVANTAGE -- AND THE IRANIAN PEOPLE HAVE PAID A HEAVY
PRICE.

WE RESPECT IRAN'S RIGHT TO AIR ITS GRIEVANCES. BUT
IRAN CANNOT HAVE IT BOTH WAYS. IRAN CANNOT
SIMULTANEOUSLY COMPLAIN TO THIS BODY AND YET DEFY IT.
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THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN HAS
REFUSED TO SAY PLAINLY AND CLEARLY THAT IT WILL COMPLY
WITH THE MANDATORY DECISION OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL.
IRAN MUST NOT BE PERMITTED TO CHOOSE THOSE PROVISIONS
OF RESOLUTION 598 THAT IT LIKES AND IGNORE THE
OTHERS. NOR CAN IRAQ BE PERMITTED TO REST ON VERBAL
ADHERENCE TO RESOLUTION 598, WHILE AVOIDING
COOPERATION WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL IN FINDING.

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PRACTICAL WAYS TO IMPLEMENT THE RESOLUTION.

FIRST, AN ASIDE: I HAD FORGOTTEN THIS, HAVING BEEN GONE FROM THE UNITED NATIONS FOR A LONG TIME, I CAN'T HELP BUT NOTICE HOW OFTEN IRAN QUOTED U.S. NEWSPAPERS. PERHAPS COMING FROM A COUNTRY NOT BLESSED WITH A VIGOROUS COMPETITIVE FREE PRESS AND FREE POLITICAL SYSTEM, THE IRANIANS DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT YOU CAN FIND COLUMNS OR COMMENTS TO SUPPORT ANY POINT OF VIEW YOU WANT IN THIS COUNTRY.

AS FOR THE IMMEDIATE MATTER AT HAND -- THE UNFORTUNATE DESTRUCTION OF IRANAIR 655 -- MANY OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES DO REMAIN UNCLEAR. OUR OWN MILITARY INVESTIGATION IS UNDER WAY. WE WILL ALSO COOPERATE WITH ANY INVESTIGATION THAT IS CONDUCTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION, AND WE TRUST THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN WILL DO THE SAME. WE WANT ALL THE RELEVANT FACTS TO BE BROUGHT TO LIGHT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND, FOR THOSE FAMILIAR WITH OUR SYSTEM, YOU KNOW THAT THEY WILL BE BROUGHT TO LIGHT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

ONE THING IS CLEAR: THE U.S.S. VINCENNES ACTED IN
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SELF-DEFENSE.

THIS TRAGIC ACCIDENT OCCURRED AGAINST A BACKDROP OF REPEATED, UNJUSTIFIED, UNPROVOKED, AND UNLAWFUL IRANIAN ATTACKS AGAINST U.S. MERCHANT SHIPPING AND ARMED FORCES, BEGINNING WITH THE MINE ATTACK ON THE USS BRIDGETON IN JULY OF 1987. IT OCCURRED IN THE MIDST OF A NAVAL ATTACK INITIATED BY IRANIAN VESSELS AGAINST A NEUTRAL VESSEL AND, SUBSEQUENTLY, AGAINST THE VINCENNES WHEN SHE CAME TO THE AID OF THE INNOCENT SHIP IN DISTRESS.

DESPITE THESE HOSTILITIES, IRANIAN AUTHORITIES FAILED TO DIVERT IRANAIR 655 FROM THIS COMBAT AREA. THEY ALLOWED A CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT LOADED WITH PASSENGERS TO PROCEED ON A PATH OVER A WARSHIP ENGAGED IN ACTIVE BATTLE. THAT WAS IRRESPONSIBLE AND A TRAGIC ERROR.

THERE ARE THREE WAYS FOR IRAN TO AVOID FUTURE TRAGEDIES: KEEP AIRLINERS AWAY FROM COMBAT OR BETTER STILL STOP ATTACKING INNOCENT SHIPS OR BETTER STILL THE BEST WAY IS PEACE. THE SECURITY COUNCIL OFFERS THE BEST HOPE OF PEACE RIGHT NOW.

THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO CAPTAIN WILL ROGERS, THE CAPTAIN OF THE VINCENNES, INDICATED THAT AN IRANIAN

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MILITARY AIRCRAFT WAS APPROACHING HIS SHIP WITH
HOSTILE INTENTIONS. AFTER SEVEN -- I WANT THE COUNCIL
TO BE SURE TO UNDERSTAND THIS -- SEVEN UNANSWERED
WARNINGS, THE CAPTAIN DID WHAT HE HAD TO DO TO PROTECT
HIS SHIP AND THE LIVES OF HIS CREW. AS A MILITARY
COMMANDER, HIS FIRST DUTY AND RESPONSIBILITY IS TO
PROTECT HIS MEN AND HIS SHIP, AND HE DID SO.

THE WILD ALLEGATIONS BY THE IRAN SIDE THAT THE ATTACK

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88USUN N002149

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ACTION IO-19

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-10	SS-00	CIAE-00	EB-00	DODE-00
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	L-03	AMAD-01	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-02	OMB-01	INRE-00
	ACDA-12	USIE-00	SP-02	DOEE-00	SNP-01	C-01	PRS-01
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6822

UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 05 USUN NEW YORK 02149

DEPT PLEASE PASS ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL, UNSC, IR, US
SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL: THE VICE PRESIDENT'S

ON THIS AIRLINER WAS PREMEDITATED IS OFFENSIVE AND IT IS ABSURD. THE UNITED STATES HAS NEVER WILLFULLY ACTED TO ENDANGER INNOCENT CIVILIANS, NOR WILL IT EVER. CONTRAST THIS IF YOU WILL WITH THE WILLFUL DETENTION OF INHUMAN CONDITIONS OF AMERICANS AND OTHERS HELD HOSTAGE AGAINST THEIR WILL. ONE COURSE IS CIVILIZED AND THE OTHER BARBARIC.

I CAN ALSO ASSURE YOU THAT THE UNITED STATES WON'T RISK PURPOSELY ENDANGERING INNOCENT CIVILIANS AS THE CHARGE LEVELED HERE TODAY, BUT I CAN ALSO SAY THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL NEVER PUT ITS MILITARY IN A DANGEROUS SITUATION AND DENY THEM THE RIGHT TO DEFEND.

MR. PRESIDENT, WE ARE ALL ACCUSTOMED BY NOW TO HEARING IRRESPONSIBLE CHARGES FROM THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT. THERE HAVE BEEN MANY PARTICULARLY
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EGREGIOUS STATEMENTS CONCERNING THIS INCIDENT. IF IRAN WANTS TO THROW 14 YEAR OLD KIDS INTO BATTLE IN A BLOODY WAR, THAT'S THEIR BUSINESS. IF THEY ATTACK INNOCENT SHIPPING AND PLACE MINES IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS, THAT'S THE BUSINESS OF ALL WHO VALUE FREEDOM, BUT THE ANSWER I KEEP COMING BACK TO IS: IT IS THE BUSINESS OF THIS COUNCIL -- IT IS PEACE.

I WILL NOT DIGNIFY WITH A RESPONSE THE CHARGE THAT WE

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DELIBERATELY DESTROYED IRANAIR 655. I HONESTLY FEEL THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF IRAN KNOWS BETTER. HE KNOWS THAT THIS TRAGEDY WAS AN ACCIDENT. HE ALSO KNOWS THAT BY ALLOWING A CIVILIAN AIRLINER TO FLY INTO THE AREA OF AN ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN IRANIAN WARSHIPS AND U.S. FORCES IN THE GULF, IRAN, TOO, MUST BEAR A SUBSTANTIAL MEASURE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT HAS HAPPENED.

I CALL ON IRAN TODAY TO REROUTE CIVILIAN AIR TRAFFIC AWAY FROM AREAS OF ACTIVE HOSTILITIES. YESTERDAY, THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE AT THE ICAO MEETING ADVOCATED AN INVESTIGATION BY THE ICAO INTO THE IRANAIR INCIDENT AND IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION OF APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF CIVIL AVIATION IN THE GULF.

MR. PRESIDENT, THE TERRIBLE DISASTER OF IRANAIR 655 FILLS OUR HEARTS WITH SORROW -- AMERICAN HEARTS, HEARTS OF THE 14 COUNTRIES AROUND THIS TABLE. I AM SITTING NEXT TO THE DISTINGUISHED REPRESENTATIVE FROM YUGOSLAVIA -- SIX OF WHOSE COUNTRYMEN WERE KILLED IN THIS. OF COURSE, WE FEEL BADLY ABOUT IT; OF COURSE, WE HAVE COMPASSION; OF COURSE WE CARE.

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OUR REACTION TO THIS TRAGEDY TRANSCENDS POLITICAL DIFFERENCES AND BOUNDARIES. AS AMERICANS, WE SHARE -- YOU CAN'T BE AN AMERICAN IF YOU DON'T -- THE GRIEF OF THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS, WHATEVER THEIR NATIONALITIES. THAT INCLUDES THE INNOCENT CITIZENS FROM THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC.

IT IS THAT STRONGLY FELT SENSE OF COMMON HUMANITY THAT HAS LED OUR GOVERNMENT TO DECIDE THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL PROVIDE VOLUNTARY, EX GRATIA COMPENSATION TO THE FAMILIES OF THOSE WHO DIED IN THAT CRASH. THIS IS PROMPT REACTION FROM A PRESIDENT AND A COUNTRY THAT FEELS SOMETHING DEEPLY, FEELS THE COMPASSION FOR THOSE THAT INNOCENTLY LOST THEIR LIVES.

WE MAKE THIS OFFER STRICTLY AS A HUMANITARIAN GESTURE -- NOT AS A MATTER OF LEGAL OBLIGATION BUT OUT OF A SENSE OF MORAL COMPASSION, REFLECTING THE VALUE THAT WE, SIR, PLACE ON HUMAN LIFE. WE HOPE THAT COMPENSATION WILL EASE THE PAIN A LITTLE OF THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED A LOSS, EVEN AS WE RECOGNIZE THAT NOTHING WE CAN DO OR SAY CAN EVER BRING BACK THE LOVED ONES TO THE FAMILIES.

IN THE CASE OF IRANIAN VICTIMS WE WILL TAKE APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT THE MONEY FLOWS

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88USUN NO02149

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DIRECTLY TO THE FAMILIES AND NOT THE GOVERNMENT: WE
WILL PROVIDE NONE OF THESE FUNDS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN. INDEED, WE WILL PROVIDE
NO COMPENSATION UNTIL MECHANISMS ARE IN PLACE TO
ENSURE THAT THE MONEY GOES WHERE IT SHOULD -- TO THE
FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS.

MR. PRESIDENT, THE TIME HAS COME, INDEED THE TIME IS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS.

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ACTION IO-19

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-10	SS-00	CIAE-00	EB-00	DODE-00
	H-01	MSC-01	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	COME-00	SSO-00	HA-09
	L-03	AMAD-01	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-02	OMB-01	INRE-00
	ACDA-12	USIE-00	SP-02	DOEE-00	SNP-01	C-01	PRS-01
	SCT-02	P-02	T-01	/079 W			

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6823

UNCLAS SECTION 05 OF 05 USUN NEW YORK 02149

DEPT PLEASE PASS ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL, UNSC, IR, US
SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL: THE VICE PRESIDENT'S

LONG PAST, FOR US TO REDEDICATE OURSELVES TO THE CAUSE OF PEACE. THE IRANAIR TRAGEDY SHOULD REINFORCE OUR DETERMINATION TO ACT. IT SHOULD REMIND THOSE WHO WOULD PREFER TO IGNORE THE HUMAN COST OF THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR AND THE THREAT IT POSES TO THE SECURITY OF THE PERSIAN GULF -- THOSE WHO FIND REASONS TO DELAY RATHER THAN REASONS TO ACT FOR PEACE -- THAT THEIR COMPLACENCY CARRIES A HEAVY PRICE.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HAS ONE OVERARCHING GOAL IN THE PERSIAN GULF. THAT GOAL IS PEACE. PEACE MEANS CESSATION OF THE KILLING. PEACE MEANS A DEFINITIVE END TO THE WAR. PEACE MEANS TOTAL FREEDOM OF PASSAGE THROUGH THE STRAITS -- TOTAL FREEDOM OF SHIPS TO SAIL WITHOUT RISK IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS. PEACE ALSO MEANS NATIONS LIVING WITHOUT THE FEAR OF THREATS OR INTIMIDATIONS FROM THEIR NEIGHBORS.

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TO THIS END, WE WILL CONTINUE TO DEFEND OUR INTERESTS AND SUPPORT OUR FRIENDS, WHILE REMAINING STEADFASTLY NEUTRAL IN THE WAR. AS LONG AS THIS CONFLICT CONTINUES, WE AND OTHER WESTERN NATIONS WILL WORK TO CONTAIN THE THREAT TO FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION AND PEACEFUL COMMERCE IN A WATERWAY THAT IS VITAL TO THE ECONOMIES OF THE WORLD. OUR NATAL PRESENCE IS WELCOMED BY PEACEFUL NATIONS. IT IS A THREAT TO NO

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ONE. BUT WE WILL RESPOND FIRMLY IF WE ARE THREATENED.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 598 WOULD ENABLE THE UNITED STATES TO RETURN TO THE MODEST NAVAL PRESENCE IN THE GULF THAT WE HAVE MAINTAINED FOR MORE THAN 40 YEARS, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE GULF STATES. WE LOOK FORWARD TO THAT DAY.

BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE: UNTIL THAT DAY, WE WILL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO MAINTAIN FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION IN THIS VITAL AREA OF THE WORLD, AND TO TAKE WHATEVER ACTIONS WE MUST TO PROTECT OUR FORCES THERE. WE WILL NOT LET DOWN OUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES. WE WILL NOT BE INTIMIDATED BY RECKLESS ATTACKS OR TERROR. OUR COMMITMENT TO FREEDOM AND PEACE DEMANDS THIS AND NOTHING LESS FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
END TEXT.
WALTERS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS.

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FOLLOWING USUN NEW YORK 02168 SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC,
INFO ATHENS, GULFWAR COLLECTIVE, UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE,
GENEVA BEING REPEATED FOR UR INFO 7/21/88

QUOTE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ USUN NEW YORK 02198.

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS

ATHENS FOR USUN POLMINCOUNS IMMERMANN

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR KORN, BOTANIC BUILDING - ECOSOC DEL

PARIS FOR AMBASSADOR OKUN

E.O. 12356: DECL; OADR

TAGS: PREL, UNSC, IR, US

SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL: IRANAIR INCIDENT CONCLUDED

REF: STATE 233696

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1. (U) SUMMARY: ON JULY 20 THE SECURITY COUNCIL ADOPTED
RESOLUTION 618 ON THE IRAN AIR INCIDENT BY A VOTE OF
15(US)-0-0. BEFORE THE VOTE IRANIAN ACTING PERMREP
MAHALLATI DELIVERED A STATEMENT CRITICIZING U.S. POLICIES
AT LENGTH BUT OFFERING A GRUDGING ACCEPTANCE OF 618.
AMBASSADOR WALTERS SPOKE TO URGE ACCELERATED EFFORTS TO
IMPLEMENT 598. SECURITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF IRANAIR
INCIDENT IS CONCLUDED. END SUMMARY.

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2. (U) SC MEETING: AFTER THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL, AMBASSADOR NOGUEIRA-BATISTA OF BRAZIL, ANNOUNCED THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON THE TEXT OF A RESOLUTION, THE COUNCIL MET THE AFTERNOON OF JULY 20. AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, IRANIAN ACTING PERMREP MAHALLATI SPOKE TO CRITICIZE U.S. POLICIES AND TO POINT OUT THE INADEQUACIES OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION. NEVERTHELESS, HE ACCEPTED THIS TEXT ON BEHALF OF HIS GOVERNMENT. TEXT OF MAHALLATI'S STATEMENT IS REPEATED IN PARA 6.

3. (U) COUNCIL THEN ADOPTED RESOLUTION BY VOTE OF 15 (US)-0-0 (TEXT PARA 8). AFTER THE VOTE AMBASSADOR WALTERS EXPLAINED THE U.S. POSITION, LAYING SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE NEED FOR A SPEEDY IMPLEMENTATION OF 598 (FULL TEXT PARA 7). SOVIET ACTING PERMREP LOZINSKIY SPOKE BRIEFLY, ENDING HIS REMARKS WITH REPETITION OF THE SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR A UN NAVAL PRESENCE TO REPLACE FOREIGN FLEETS IN THE GULF. THE SC PRESIDENT THEN ANNOUNCED THAT CONSIDERATION BY THE SC OF THE IRANAIR INCIDENT WAS CONCLUDED.

4. (c) COMMENT: SEVERAL FACTORS HELP TO EXPLAIN THIS SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION TO SECURITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

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OF THE IRANAIR INCIDENT. IRANIAN DIPLOMACY AT THE UN HAS SUFFERED FROM YEARS OF REFUSING TO COOPERATE WITH THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND FROM THE HABIT OF TELLING DIFFERENT THINGS TO DIFFERENT DELEGATIONS. AS A RESULT, THEY HAVE NO CLOSE FRIENDS AMONG NON-ALIGNED SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS, ALL OF WHOM EAGERLY ASSOCIATED THEMSELVES WITH 598 DURING THE COUNCIL'S DEBATE.

5. (c) STRUCTURAL FACTORS ALSO PLAYED TO OUR ADVANTAGE. THE U.S. HAS A HOME FIELD ADVANTAGE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL -- VETO POWER PLUS FIVE ALLIES ON THE COUNCIL. WHEN THE IRANIANS AGREED THAT THE SC PRESIDENT SHOULD WORK TO PRODUCE A TEXT, THEY WERE IN EFFECT CONCEDING THAT WE WOULD NOT HAVE TO FACE A CONFRONTATIONAL DOCUMENT. THE FINAL TWO KEY FACTORS ARE THAT THE SOVIETS MADE NO ATTEMPT TO EXPLOIT THE SITUATION AND NO OTHER DELEGATION, EVEN IF WELL-MEANING, COMPLICATED THE SITUATION BY PUSHING FORWARD ANOTHER TEXT. USUN RECOGNIZES THE GREAT ASSIST IN THIS MATTER BY EMBASSIES IN THE FIELD. END COMMENT.

6. (U) TEXT FOLLOWS OF STATEMENT BY IRANIAN ACTING PERMREP MAHALLATI:

MR. PRESIDENT,

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I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS TO YOU THE SINCERE APPRECIATION OF MY GOVERNMENT FOR YOUR EFFORTS IN LEADING THE DELIBERATION OF THE COUNCIL OVER THIS MOST TRAGIC CASE OF MARTYRDOM OF 290 INNOCENT PASSENGERS OF IRAN AIR 655 AND FOR YOUR EXTENDED EFFORTS TO GUIDE THE OUTCOME OF THESE DELIBERATIONS. MAY I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS MY AND MY GOVERNMENT'S GRATITUDE TO THE DELEGATIONS WHO TOOK THE FLOOR IN THIS BODY AND EXPRESSED THEIR ABHORRENCE OVER THE SHOOTING DOWN OF THE COMMERCIAL AIRLINER BY THE UNITED STATES' UNCONTROLLED NAVAL FORCES. I WOULD ALSO

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LIKE TO THANK ALL THOSE DELEGATIONS WHO EXPRESSED THEIR SUPPORT AND SYMPATHY TO US OUTSIDE THE SECURITY COUNCIL CHAMBER. THANKS AND APPRECIATION ARE ALSO DUE TO MR. DE CUELLAR, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS WHO HAS TAKEN A CONSTRUCTIVE AND POSITIVE ROLE ON THIS TRAGIC

ISSUE.

MR. PRESIDENT,

THE QUESTION UNDER CONSIDERATION IN THIS COUNCIL FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS HAS BEEN WHETHER OR NOT WE ARE WILLING OR HAVE THE ABILITY TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONDUCTING OUR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS IN A CIVILIZED MANNER. THE QUESTION IS WHETHER THE UNRESTRAINED AND DISPROPORTIONATE USE OF FORCE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COULD UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES BE CONSIDERED A CIVILIZED MODE OF POLICY EXECUTION. THE QUESTION IS WHETHER THE DESTRUCTION OF A CIVILIAN AIRLINER AND ITS 290 PASSENGERS COULD UNDER ANY PRETEXTS, INCLUDING SELF-DEFENCE, BE PERCEIVED BY THE CIVILIZED WORLD AS A JUSTIFIED ACT AS THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION HAS SO ARROGANTLY CLAIMED. THE STATEMENTS IN THIS CHAMBER OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS AND PUBLIC OPINION THE WORLD OVER REFLECT THE FACT THAT A MINIMUM DEGREE OF DECENCY AND CIVILIZED BEHAVIOR REQUIRES A BETTER EXPLANATION FOR THE MURDER OF 290 INNOCENT PASSENGERS THAN THE EXCUSES PROVIDED BY THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION.

WE BELIEVE THAT A RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN IT HAS CAUSED THE DESTRUCTION OF A CIVILIAN AIRLINER AND ITS 290 PASSENGERS MUST URGENTLY TAKE THREE STEPS. IT MUST APOLOGISE TO THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS, PEOPLES AND GOVERNMENT CONCERNED. IT MUST

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ACCEPT FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DOWNING OF THE AIRLINER AND OFFER REPARATION OUT OF LEGAL AND MORAL

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LIABILITY. IT MUST REASSESS AND REVISE POLICIES WHICH HAVE LED TO THE DOWNING OF THE PLANE AND MURDER OF ITS INNOCENT PASSENGERS. WE HAVE WITNESSED THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DID NOT ACT RESPONSIBLY. IT DID NOT APOLOGIZE BUT IT PAID LIP SERVICE TO AND EXPRESSED REGRET OVER THE LOSS OF LIFE. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DID NOT ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ITS HEINOUS ACT AND DID NOT OFFER FULL REPARATION, BUT IT ADDED INSULT TO INJURY BY OFFERING CHARITY TO THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS. MOST SIGNIFICANTLY, THE UNITED STATES HAS REFUSED TO GIVE ANY INDICATION OF WITHDRAWING FROM THE CROWDED WATERS OF THE PERSIAN GULF AND THEREBY ELIMINATING THE RISK OF COMMITTING THE SAME CRIME AGAIN.

MR. PRESIDENT,

THE POSITION ADOPTED BY THE UNITED STATES HAS PURPOSEFULLY IGNORED A VERY IMPORTANT FACT; A FACT THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL IS WELL AWARE OF AND OUGHT TO CONSIDER VERY SERIOUSLY. THE UNDISPUTED FACT IS THAT IT WAS NOT THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN WHICH STARTED THE WAR AND HOSTILITIES IN THE PERSIAN GULF. IT IS NOT A SECRET THAT THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN STANDS TO GAIN, MORE THAN ANY OTHER LITTORAL STATE, FROM A PEACEFUL PERSIAN GULF WHERE FREEDOM OF COMMERCIAL NAVIGATION IS FULLY RESPECTED. THIS IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE AND IT DOES NOT TAKE A GENIUS TO FIGURE IT OUT. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS IS FULLY AWARE AND CAN TESTIFY THAT THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN HAS ALWAYS CALLED FOR UNCONDITIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE PERSIAN GULF. HAVING SAID THIS, I WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE COUNCIL ABOUT THE PURPOSE OF THE UNITED STATES' PROVOCATIONS AND CONFRONTATIONS WITH THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN IN THE PERSIAN GULF. WE BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED

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STATES' BEHAVIOUR IN THE PERSIAN GULF AND THE THREAT WHICH IT HAS POSED TO THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN HAS NO OBJECTIVE OTHER THAN TO FAN THE FIRE WHICH IRAN DID NOT START IN THE PERSIAN GULF WHICH RUNS COUNTER TO THE INTEREST OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN.

MR. PRESIDENT, DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES:

IN THE FACE OF SUCH CRIME WHICH HAS BROUGHT THE PERPETRATORS; NAMELY THE POLICY MAKERS IN WASHINGTON UNDER SERIOUS MORAL, LEGAL AND POLITICAL QUESTION, THE SECURITY COUNCIL IS CONSIDERING A RESOLUTION WHICH INSTEAD OF CONDEMNING THE CULPRIT FOR ITS IRRESPONSIBLE

AND BARBARIC ACT SIMPLY EXPRESSES ITS DEEP DISTRESS. A RESOLUTION, WHICH HOWEVER MILD AND MODERATE, CLEARLY

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ILLUSTRATES THE MAGNITUDE OF THE CRIME UNDER
CONSIDERATION BECAUSE OF A UNIQUE PECULIARITY.

THE RESOLUTION UNDER CONSIDERATION LACKS THE EMPHASIS ON
THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN'S RIGHT UNDER INTERNATIONAL
LAW FOR REDRESS AND FULL REPARATION; A POINT WHICH IS
ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL FOR A POSITION OF PRINCIPLE BY THE
SECURITY COUNCIL.

MR. PRESIDENT,

WHEN MY GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO CALL ON THE SECURITY
COUNCIL TO CONSIDER THIS HEINOUS ACT, WE WERE NOT UNDER
ANY ILLUSION IN RESPECT OF DECISION MAKING PROCESS IN
THIS BODY. WE WERE AWARE THAT THE CULPRIT WILL ALSO BE
THE ULTIMATE JUDGE - THUS THE DEGREE OF JUSTICE WE
EXPECTED IN RESPECT OF THE FINAL DECISION WAS ACCORDINGLY

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VERY LIMITED. FOR OUR DECISION TO RESORT TO THE
INTERNATIONAL BODY, HOWEVER, WE WERE GUIDED BY A HIGHER
PRINCIPLE, THAT IS THE PRINCIPLE TO UP-HOLD THE
ESTABLISHED NORMS OF CIVILIZED BEHAVIOUR WHICH PRECLUDES,
AMONG OTHER, SHOOTING DOWN OF A CIVILIAN AIRLINER.

THEREFORE, NOTWITHSTANDING THESE PROBLEMS, WE ARE READY,
FOR OUR PART, TO COMPLY WITH THIS RESOLUTION IN ORDER TO
ENHANCE THE AUTHORITY OF AND RESPECT FOR THE
INTERNATIONAL PRINCIPLES RELEVANT TO SAFETY OF CIVIL
AVIATION WHICH IS SO VITAL TO OUR WORLD TODAY.

WE WELCOME THE COUNCIL'S DECISION TO STRESS ANEW THE
OBLIGATIONS OF ALL PARTIES TO OBSERVE TO THE FULLEST
EXTENT AND IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES - NO BUTS, IPS AND
EXCUSES - THE RULES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW CONCERNING THE
SAFETY OF CIVIL AVIATION, IN PARTICULAR THOSE OF THE
ANNEXES TO THAT CHICAGO CONVENTION IN ORDER TO PREVENT
THE RECURRENCE OF INCIDENTS OF THE SAME NATURE. THE
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN LOOKS FORWARD TO COOPERATING
WITH THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION FOR AN
IMMEDIATE FACT-FINDING INVESTIGATION OF THIS MOST TRAGIC
CASE, EVEN THOUGH WE BELIEVE THAT THE FACTS ARE CRYSTAL
CLEAR.

WE HOPE THAT OTHER PARTIES CONCERNED, ESPECIALLY THE
UNITED STATES, TOO, COMPLY WITH THE WORDS AND SPIRIT OF
THIS RESOLUTION, SO AS TO PREVENT RECURRENCE OF THIS
TRAGIC CASE AND SO AS TO BRING BACK SAFETY OF CIVIL
AVIATION AS WELL AS FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION FOR COMMERCIAL
SHIPPING IN THE PERSIAN GULF.

MR. PRESIDENT, DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES.

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UNDER THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES: WHEN THE ISLAMIC
REPUBLIC OF IRAN HAS REMOVED THE LAST EXCUSE FOR IMPEDING
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THE EFFORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO BRING PEACE AND SECURITY TO THE PERSIAN GULF AND THE WHOLE REGION, IT IS HIGH TIME FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO WORK INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY TO ASSIST THE SECRETARY-GENERAL IN PUTTING AN END, ONCE FOR ALL, TO FURTHER LOSS OF LIFE IN IRAN AND IRAQ. IT IS HIGH TIME FOR ALL STATES CONCERNED TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADOPTING A POLICY WHICH IS CONDUCIVE TO ACHIEVING A PERMANENT, JUST AND HONOURABLE SOLUTION TO THE IMPOSED WAR. TO THIS END, THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN IMMEDIATELY ACCEPTED THE PROPOSAL OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND IS READY TO RECEIVE HIS TECHNICAL TEAM AND EXTEND ITS FULLEST COOPERATION TO THE EFFORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL.

END TEXT.

7. (U) TEXT FOLLOWS OF STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR WALTERS IN EXPLANATION OF VOTE, ON THE IRANAIR INCIDENT, JULY 20, 1988:

MR. PRESIDENT, THIS COUNCIL DEBATE HAS TAKEN PLACE AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF A LANDMARK EVENT IN OUR JOINT EFFORTS TO FIND A DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION TO THE EIGHT-YEAR OLD GULF WAR. WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN'S FORMAL ACCEPTANCE OF RESOLUTION 598 -- A RESOLUTION WHICH IRAQ ACCEPTED LAST YEAR -- A MAJOR STEP HAS BEEN TAKEN TOWARD A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. ONE YEAR AGO TODAY, SECRETARY SHULTZ APPEARED BEFORE THIS BODY TO UNDERScore UNITED STATES SUPPORT FOR THE COUNCIL'S UNANIMOUS ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 598 AS "A FORCEFUL ACTION BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO BRING ABOUT AN IMMEDIATE CEASE-FIRE AND ESTABLISH A FRAMEWORK FOR PEACE." ON THIS ANNIVERSARY OF
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THE ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 598, WE CAN ALL TAKE PRIDE IN THE COUNCIL'S LEADERSHIP AND DETERMINATION IN HELPING TO END THIS DESTRUCTIVE CONFLICT. REAL PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE, ALTHOUGH MUCH HARD WORK REMAINS TO ACHIEVE OUR COMMON OBJECTIVE OF A STABLE PEACE. WE CANNOT AFFORD TO MISS THE OPPORTUNITY BEFORE US; WE MUST COLLECTIVELY REDOUBLE OUR EFFORTS TO MAKE PEACE A REALITY.

THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAS MET OVER THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS TO DISCUSS A HUMAN TRAGEDY -- THAT OF IRAN AIR 655. AS VICE PRESIDENT BUSH STRESSED IN HIS STATEMENT TO THE

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COUNCIL LAST WEEK, AND AS VIRTUALLY EVERY MEMBER OF THIS COUNCIL HAS NOTED DURING THE DEBATE, THE AIRBUS ACCIDENT IS ONLY PART OF A MUCH LARGER HUMAN TRAGEDY: THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR.

FOR A YEAR NOW THE UNITED STATES HAS WORKED DILIGENTLY, IN COOPERATION WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS, TO HELP END THE FIGHTING THROUGH IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 598, THE AGREED FRAMEWORK FOR A COMPREHENSIVE, JUST, HONORABLE AND DURABLE SETTLEMENT. NOW, A LARGE OBSTACLE TO PROGRESS HAS BEEN OVERCOME. WE WELCOME THE DECLARATION OF IRANIAN PRESIDENT KHAMENEI, IN HIS LETTER OF JULY 17 TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN FORMALLY ACCEPTS 598. COUPLED WITH THE REAFFIRMATION SUNDAY BY PRESIDENT SADDAM HUSSEIN OF IRAQ'S LONGSTANDING AGREEMENT TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION 598, THE BASIS HAS BEEN LAID FOR AN URGENT AND CONCERTED EFFORT BY THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, AND THE MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO IMPLEMENT THE RESOLUTION. WE WELCOME THE ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL THAT HE INTENDS TO DISPATCH A TEAM HEADED BY LIEUTENANT GENERAL MARTIN VADSET TO THE AREA FOR URGENT TALKS WITH THE PARTIES.

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THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED TODAY STRESSES THE NEED FOR FULL AND RAPID IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 598. THE TWO SIDES' ACCEPTANCE OF 598 WILL NOT ALONE END THE WAR; MUCH MORE REMAINS TO BE DONE TO ACHIEVE PEACE. WE RENEW OUR CALL ON BOTH SIDES TO SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY, AND TO COOPERATE URGENTLY WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL IN EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT 598 IN ALL ITS ASPECTS: MOST PROMINENTLY AN IMMEDIATE CEASE-FIRE ON ALL FRONTS, ACCOMPANIED BY WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FORCES TO INTERNATIONAL BORDERS, FULL RETURN OF POWS, AND FORMATION OF AN IMPARTIAL BODY TO INVESTIGATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONFLICT. IF THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT ARE PREPARED TO MAKE THE NECESSARY GOOD FAITH NEGOTIATING EFFORTS, AND IF THE MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ARE PREPARED TO PROVIDE FULL AND ENERGETIC SUPPORT TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, SUCCESS IS ACHIEVABLE.

MR. PRESIDENT, FOR OVER 40 YEARS THE CENTRAL PURSUIT OF UNITED STATES POLICY IN THE GULF REGION HAS BEEN PEACE. OUR DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS AND NAVAL PRESENCE, AS WELL AS OUR SUPPORT FOR THE SELF-DEFENSE OF FRIENDLY, NON-BELLIGERENT STATES, ARE INTEGRAL ELEMENTS OF THIS POLICY. WORKING WITH OUR ALLIES, WE WILL REMAIN STEADFAST IN OUR EFFORTS TO END THE GULF WAR WHILE PROTECTING OUR VITAL INTERESTS IN THE REGION. IN THIS RESPECT WE FIRMLY CALL ON ALL

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STATES TO RESPECT TO THE FULLEST EXTENT THE RIGHT, UNDER
INTERNATIONAL LAW, OF FREE NAVIGATION IN INTERNATIONAL
WATERS IN THE GULF. THE PRINCIPLE OF FREEDOM OF

NAVIGATION IS IMPORTANT TO ALL THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD.
INDEED, IT WAS EXACTLY TO ENSURE THE RIGHT OF THE UNITED
STATES AND OTHER NEUTRAL SHIPPING TO SUCH FREE NAVIGATION
IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW THAT THE UNITED
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STATES AND FIVE ALLIED COUNTRIES EXPANDED THE WESTERN
NAVAL PRESENCE IN THE GULF. THIS RESOLUTION, OF COURSE,
DOES NOT IN ANY WAY CHANGE THE CONTEXT OR SCOPE OF
CURRENT INTERNATIONAL LAW ON FREE NAVIGATION, OR THE
RIGHTS OF BELLIGERENTS OR NEUTRALS UNDER INTERNATIONAL
LAW.

WE INTEND TO STICK WITH OUR EFFECTIVE GULF POLICY. AS
THE VICE PRESIDENT STATED IN THIS CHAMBER LAST THURSDAY,
ONCE TENSIONS DECREASE AND THE THREAT TO WESTERN
INTERESTS DISSIPATES IN THE AREA, THEN THE LEVEL OF OUR
NAVAL PRESENCE WILL NATURALLY BE REDUCED. WE REJECT ANY
SUGGESTION THAT THE CURRENT WESTERN NAVAL PRESENCE IN THE
PERSIAN GULF IS SOMEHOW AN INTRUSION. IT IS NOT. IT IS
A FORCE FOR PEACE. IT IS THERE IN SUPPORT OF REGIONAL
STATES WHOSE INTERESTS AND THOSE OF THE WEST FACE A VERY
REAL THREAT. THE LEGITIMACY OF THE WESTERN NAVAL
PRESENCE IN THE GULF IS SIMPLY NOT SUBJECT TO QUESTION.

THE IRANAIR 655 INCIDENT WAS A TRAGIC ACCIDENT. THE
UNITED STATES HAS EXPRESSED ITS DEEP REGRET OVER THE LOSS
OF LIFE AND HAS CONVEYED SINCERE CONDOLENCES TO RELATIVES
OF THE VICTIMS. AS THE COUNCIL IS AWARE, THE UNITED
STATES HAS OFFERED TO PAY EX GRATIA COMPENSATION TO THE
FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS ---AND WE DO NOT SEE THIS AS AN
ACT OF CHARITY -- NOT ON THE BASIS OF ANY LEGAL
LIABILITY, BUT RATHER AS A SINCERE HUMANITARIAN GESTURE.
WE DO SO WITHOUT APOLOGY FOR THE ACTION OF THE VINCENNES,
WHICH WAS ACTING IN JUSTIFIABLE SELF-DEFENSE IN THE
CONTEXT OF UNPROVOKED ATTACKS FROM IRANIAN FORCES, WHICH
BEAR A SUBSTANTIAL MEASURE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE
INCIDENT.

HAVING INITIATED OUR OWN MILITARY INVESTIGATION, THE
UNITED STATES JOINS IN ENDORSING THE ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE
ICAO COUNCIL TO COMMENCE ITS INVESTIGATION OF THE IRANAIR
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INCIDENT. WE LOOK FORWARD TO COOPERATING WITH ICAO IN
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THAT INVESTIGATION AND IN THE EFFORTS THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE ICAO COUNCIL AND THE ICAO SECRETARY-GENERAL WILL BE UNDERTAKING TO IMPROVE CIVIL AVIATION SAFETY IN THE GULF AND TO STUDY POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS IN ICAO STANDARDS AND RECOMMENDED PRACTICES GENERALLY TO PREVENT RECURRENCE OF SUCH A TRAGIC INCIDENT.

IT IS IN THIS CONTEXT THAT THE UNITED STATES LENDS ITS SUPPORT TO THE RESOLUTION JUST ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL TODAY. WE BELIEVE THIS RESOLUTION PUTS THE UNFORTUNATE EVENTS OF JULY 3 IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE. IT IS OUR HOPE THAT THIS ACTION OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL WILL SERVE AS AN URGENT REMINDER TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY THAT WE CANNOT PERMIT THE SENSELESS CONFLICT IN THE GULF TO CONTINUE. THE RISKS ARE TOO GREAT, AND THE PRICE -- IN HUMAN SUFFERING AND MATERIAL DESTRUCTION -- IS TOO HIGH. WE MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL BEAR A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP IN THIS REGARD. LET US ALL RE-DEDICATE OURSELVES TO THIS VITAL TASK AND DO WHAT WE CAN TO ENCOURAGE THE BELLIGERENTS TO WALK THROUGH THE DOOR OF OPPORTUNITY NOW OPEN BEFORE THEM INTO AN ERA OF LASTING PEACE.

THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT.

END TEXT.

8. (U) TEXT FOLLOWS OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 618 (1988):

THE SECURITY COUNCIL,

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HAVING CONSIDERED THE LETTER DATED 5 JULY 1988 FROM THE ACTING PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN (S/19981) ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE

SECURITY COUNCIL,

HAVING HEARD THE STATEMENT OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, FOREIGN MINISTER ALI-AKBAR VELAYATI (S/PV.2818) AND THE STATEMENT OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, VICE PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH (S/PV.2818),

DEEPLY DISTRESSED THAT A CIVIL AIRCRAFT OF IRAN AIR -- SCHEDULED INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT 655 -- WAS DESTROYED IN FLIGHT OVER THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ BY A MISSILE FIRED FROM THE UNITED STATES WARSHIP USS VINCENNES,

STRESSING THE NEED FOR A FULL EXPLANATION OF THE FACTS OF

PAGE NO. 9

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DECLASSIFIEDTHE INCIDENT BASED UPON ~~IMPARTIAL~~ INVESTIGATION, ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

GRAVELY DISTURBED AT THE INCREASING EXACERBATION OF TENSION IN THE GULF REGION,

1. EXPRESSES ITS DEEP DISTRESS AT THE DOWNING OF AN IRANIAN CIVIL AIRCRAFT BY A MISSILE FIRED FROM A UNITED STATES WARSHIP AND PROFOUND REGRET OVER THE TRAGIC LOSS OF INNOCENT LIVES;
2. EXPRESSES ITS SINCERE CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS OF THE TRAGIC INCIDENT AND TO THE PEOPLES AND GOVERNMENTS OF THEIR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN;
3. WELCOMES THE DECISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION (ICAO), IN RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, "TO INSTITUTE AN IMMEDIATE FACT-FINDING INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE ALL
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PAGE 14 STATE 235084

RELEVANT FACTS AND TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE CHAIN OF EVENTS RELATING TO THE FLIGHT AND DESTRUCTION OF THE AIRCRAFT" AND WELCOMES THE ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN OF THEIR DECISIONS TO COOPERATE WITH THE ICAO INVESTIGATION;

4. URGES ALL PARTIES TO THE CHICAGO CONVENTION OF 1944 ON INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION TO OBSERVE TO THE FULLEST EXTENT, IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES, THE RULES AND PRACTICES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW CONCERNING THE SAFETY OF CIVIL AVIATION, IN PARTICULAR THOSE OF THE ANNEXES TO THAT CONVENTION, IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE RECURRENCE OF INCIDENTS OF THE SAME NATURE;

5. STRESSES THE NEED FOR A FULL AND RAPID IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS RESOLUTION 598 (1987), AS THE ONLY BASIS FOR A COMPREHENSIVE, JUST, HONOURABLE AND DURABLE SETTLEMENT OF THE CONFLICT BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ, AND REAFFIRMS ITS SUPPORT TO THE EFFORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO IMPLEMENT THAT RESOLUTION, COMMITTING ITSELF TO WORK WITH HIM IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.
END TEXT.
WALTERS UNQUOTE WHITEHEAD

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PAGE 01

STATE 249378

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MONTREAL FOR ICAO REP., BRUSSELS FOR FAA

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, ICAO

SUBJECT: IRAN AIR 655: US TEAM AUGUST 3 VISIT
TO ICAO

1. FOLLOWING ARE CLEARED MINUTES OF AUGUST 1
 INTERAGENCY MEETING HELD AT DEPARTMENT.

"MINUTES

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PAGE 02

STATE 249378

AUGUST 1, 1988 INTERDEPARTMENT MEETING ON U.S.
 VISIT TO ICAO AUGUST 3 RE IR 655 DOWNING

AN INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEETING WAS HELD ON
 AUGUST 1 TO DETERMINE THE U.S. POSITION FOR THE
 AUGUST 3 MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KOTAITE AT ICAO.
 REPRESENTATIVES FROM DOD, FAA, DOT, AND THE STATE
 DEPARTMENT (EB, IO, PM, AND L) WERE PRESENT

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COLONEL JAMES EAST OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S POLITICAL/MILITARY AFFAIRS BUREAU OPENED THE MEETING BY STATING THAT THE U.S. WANTED TO BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE IN COOPERATING WITH THE ICAO INVESTIGATION. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE SOVIETS HAD BEEN CONDEMNED BY ICAO NOT ONLY FOR SHOOTING DOWN KAL 007 BUT ALSO FOR NOT COOPERATING WITH ICAO. COLONEL EAST ALSO NOTED THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN U.S. GULF POLICY. HE STATED THAT THE QUESTIONS PROVIDED BY ICAO COVER SEVERAL MAJOR AREAS:

- 1) WHAT ARE CURRENT U.S. PROCEDURES FOR CIVIL/MILITARY COORDINATION IN THE GULF?
- 2) HOW CAN THIS COORDINATION BE IMPROVED?
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COMMANDER JOHN MORGAN OF THE JCS THEN DISCUSSED THE DOD PROPOSALS WHICH HE STATED WERE BASED LARGELY UPON INPUT FROM CENTCOM AND FROM THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVES WHO ATTENDED THE JULY 13 -14 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PAGE 03 STATE 249378

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MONTREAL FOR THE US REP TO ICAO

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: AORC, EAIR, ICAO, IR, FR, US

SUBJECT: FRENCH ASSISTANCE IN ICAO'S INVESTIGATION OF
THE DOWNING OF IRAN AIR FLIGHT 655

REF: USMISSION TO ICAO'S DATAFAX OF JULY 21, 1988 (NOTAL)

1. THE REFERENCED DATAFAX INFORMED THE DEPARTMENT THAT
 THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN (GOI) HAD ASKED THE PRESIDENT OF
 THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION (ICAO), DR.
 ASSAD KOTAITE, FOR ASSISTANCE REGARDING THE ONGOING SEARCH
 FOR THE FLIGHT DATA AND COCKPIT VOICE RECORDERS (THE
 SO-CALLED "BLACK BOX"). IN RESPONSE, ICAO HAS ASKED THE
 GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE (GOF) FOR ASSISTANCE BOTH IN THE
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SEARCH AND WITH THE READOUTS BECAUSE THE GOF HAS THE
 EXPERTISE AND PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN THIS FIELD. KOTAITE
 CONFIRMED THAT IF THE RECORDERS ARE FOUND, ICAO WILL HAVE
 AN OBSERVER ON HAND FROM THE RECOVERY THROUGH THE
 READOUT. KOTAITE ALSO ASKED FOR CONFIRMATION THAT THE USG
 WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO THE GOF PERFORMING THIS SERVICE.

2. ON JULY 22, THE DEPUTY FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE TO ICAO
 ALSO ASKED OUR MISSION INFORMALLY FOR CONFIRMATION THAT

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THE USG WOULD HAVE NO ~~OBJECTION~~ ~~NOTING THAT THE GOF WOULD~~
UNdertake THIS EFFORT ONLY IF THE USG AND THE GOI HAD NO
OBJECTION.

3. THIS TELEGRAM AUTHORIZES THE U.S. MISSION TO ICAO TO
INFORM BOTH DR. KOTAITE AND THE FRENCH MISSION TO ICAO
THAT THE USG HAS NO/NO OBJECTION TO THE GOF PERFORMING
THIS SERVICE. YOU SHOULD ADD TO THE FRENCH THAT THE USG
GREATLY APPRECIATES THIS FRENCH ASSISTANCE AND IS
DELIGHTED THAT THE GOF MAY BE WILLING TO DO SO,
ESPECIALLY SINCE TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE BECAUSE RECORDERS
USUALLY EXPIRE WITHIN 30 DAYS. IF THE FRENCH WANT THIS
REPLY IN WRITING, YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO GIVE IT, SENDING A
COPY TO THE DEPARTMENT (IO/T).

3. FOR PARIS: EMBASSY IS AUTHORIZED TO SHARE THIS
MESSAGE WITH AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF THE GOF, IF YOU DEEM
IT APPROPRIATE. SHULTZ

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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: SOPN
SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF TUESDAY EVENING TV NEWSCASTS, 8/2/88

. ABC WORLD NEWS - TUESDAY

1. DOWNING OF IRANIAN JUMBO JET - IT WAS HUMAN ERROR. WHEN THE OFFICIAL U.S. REPORT ON THE SHOOTING DOWN OF IRAN AIR FLIGHT 655 IS FINALLY MADE PUBLIC, THAT IS WHAT IT WILL SAY - THAT THE SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT ABOARD THE USS VINCENNES, THE SO-CALLED AEGIS SYSTEM, DID WHAT IT WAS SUPPOSED TO DO, THAT MAN-MADE MISTAKES CAUSED THE CAPTAIN TO FIRE ON THE IRANIAN JET, WHICH CAUSED ALMOST 300 PEOPLE TO DIE. (PETER JENNINGS)

AN INFORMED PENTAGON OFFICIAL SAYS THE REPORT CONCLUDES THAT THE AEGIS SYSTEM ABOARD THE VINCENNES FUNCTIONED WELL, AND THAT HUMAN ERROR WAS PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DISASTER WHICH CLAIMED 290 LIVES.

ADMIRAL CROWE IS REPORTEDLY STILL CONVINCED THAT CAPTAIN UNCLASSIFIED
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WILL ROGERS ACTED PROPERLY ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO HIM.

SENIOR PENTAGON OFFICIALS ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE RULES OF ENGAGEMENT GAVE THE VINCENNES GREAT LEEWAY TO FIRE PREEMPTIVELY AT AN APPROACHING PLANE, BUT THEY INSIST SUCH RULES WERE NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE LIVES OF AMERICAN CREWMEN. (BOB ZELNICK - PENTAGON)

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2. PROTESTS FOR PEACE IN ~~IRAN~~ IN TEHRAN TODAY, THOUSANDS OF IRANIANS DEMONSTRATED FOR PEACE WITH IRAQ. IT GOES SOME DISTANCE TOWARDS CONFIRMING THE MANY REPORTS WE'VE HAD OF HOW WAR WEARY IRANIANS ARE. (PETER JENNINGS)

3. CARLUCCI VISITS THE USSR - IT WAS THE SECRETIVE SOVIET MILITARY GONE GLASNOST - AN AIR SHOW FEATURING MIG 29 FIGHTERS AND, MOST REMARKABLY, THE TOP SECRET BLACKJACK BOMBER, UNTIL NOW GLIMPSED ONLY IN MILITARY PHOTOS AND MANUALS. CARLUCCI GOT TO SEE FOR HIMSELF. CARLUCCI: "THE MORE THE SOVIET UNION OPENS UP TO THE WORLD, THE EASIER IT IS FOR US TO JUDGE THEIR MILITARY CAPABILITIES AND INTENTIONS." THE SHOW FOR CARLUCCI REEMPHASIZED THE NEED TO CONTINUE THIS DIALOGUE, BUT AT THE SAME TIME NOT LET UP ON U.S. DEFENSE SPENDING. CARLUCCI: "IT BEHOOVES US TO REMAIN IN A WATCHFUL MODE." (JIM LURIE - MOSCOW)

B. NBC NIGHTLY NEWS - TUESDAY

1. NORTH TRIAL - THE IRAN/CONTRA PROSECUTOR SAID THAT TO AVOID A LENGTHY DELAY OF OLIVER NORTH'S TRIAL, HE NOW IS READY TO DROP THE THREE MAJOR CRIMINAL CHARGES OF CONSPIRACY, THEFT AND FRAUD. (TOM BROKAW)

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SPECIAL PROSECUTOR LAWRENCE WALSH SAID INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CLEAR ALL THE DOCUMENTS NORTH CLAIMS ARE NEEDED FOR HIS TRIAL IN SEPTEMBER. WALSH PROPOSED THAT ONLY PART OF THE CASE GO FORWARD. LAWYERS FOR NORTH ARE URGING THAT IF WALSH ISN'T READY FOR TRIAL ON THE MAIN CHARGES, THAT ALL OF THE CHARGES SHOULD BE THROWN OUT. (CARL STERN - WASHINGTON)

2. ANGOLA/NAMIBIA - NEGOTIATIONS TO END THE LONG STRUGGLE IN AFRICA OVER ANGOLA AND NAMIBIA TOOK TODAY WHAT COULD BE A MAJOR STEP FORWARD. SOUTH AFRICA PROPOSED THAT CUBA PULL ITS 50,000 TROOPS OUT OF ANGOLA BY NOVEMBER 1ST, IN RETURN, SOUTH AFRICA SAID IT WOULD WITHDRAW ITS TROOPS FROM NAMIBIA AND END ALL CLAIMS TO THAT TERRITORY. (TOM BROKAW)

3. JOHN CHANCELLOR COMMENTARY ON US ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST - A LOT OF THINGS ARE ENDING FOR THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION - AMONG THEM THE POWER TO SHAPE EVENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE LATEST BLOW COMES FROM KING HUSSEIN, WHO HAS DUMPED THE AMERICAN PLAN FOR ISRAELI SETTLEMENT WITH THE PALESTINIANS. HUSSEIN DID WHAT HE DID WITHOUT TELLING WASHINGTON. LAST MONTH, SAUDI ARABIA, WITHOUT TELLING WASHINGTON, TURNED AWAY FROM THE U.S. AND SIGNED A COLOSSAL WEAPONS DEAL WITH THE BRITISH. THE SAUDIS WERE TIRED OF SEEING THEIR ARMS

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PURCHASES BLOCKED BY THE ISRAELI LOBBY IN THE U.S. CONGRESS. AND AMERICAN INFLUENCE IN THIS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT COUNTRY IS LESSENED. IN FACT, YOU SEE A LOT OF AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST, BUT NOT A LOT OF AMERICAN INFLUENCE; NOT WITH JORDAN, NOT WITH ISRAEL, NOT WITH THE PALESTINIANS, NOT WITH IRAN, NOT WITH THE SAUDIS. YOU SEE THE RUSSIANS INCREASING THEIR INFLUENCE IN SOME OF THE GULF STATES, AND THE CHINESE SELLING ARMS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. NOBODY KNOWS IF IRAN AND IRAQ WILL CALL OFF THEIR WAR, BUT IF THEY DO IT WON'T BE BECAUSE OF UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 249691 TOSEC 150049

AMERICAN INFLUENCE. WITH ONLY 14 WEEKS TO GO BEFORE THE AMERICAN ELECTION, ALL THIS IS UNLIKELY TO CHANGE, WHICH MEANS THAT THE MIDDLE EAST AT THE END OF THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION IS NO BETTER OFF THAN IT WAS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE ADMINISTRATION. KING HUSSEIN'S DECISION IS JUST PART OF THE TREND.

C. CBS EVENING NEWS - TUESDAY

1. IRA BOMBINGS - THE IRA CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THREE SEPARATE ACTS TODAY IN NORTHERN IRELAND. A POLICE OFFICER WAS KILLED BY A CAR BOMB AT A SHOPPING CENTER OUTSIDE BELFAST, 18 BYSTANDERS WERE WOUNDED. NEARBY, A PART-TIME SOLDIER WAS SHOT TO DEATH. EARLIER, SIX PART-TIME SOLDIERS WERE HURT WHEN THEIR VEHICLE HIT A LAND MINE. (DAN RATHER)

D. MACNEIL-LEHRER - NO FOREIGN POLICY INTERVIEWS. WHITEHEAD

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MONTREAL FOR ICAO REP., BRUSSELS FOR FAA

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, ICAO

SUBJECT: IRAN AIR 655: US TEAM AUGUST 3 VISIT
TO ICAO

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PAGE 02 STATE 249378

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88STATE 249378

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88STATE 249378

BE AS FOLLOWS:

1) THE U.S. WOULD OFFER THE ICAO TEAM THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT THE AEGIS ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT SITE IN MOORESTOWN, NEW JERSEY, WHERE VARIOUS SCENARIOS, INCLUDING A PERSIAN GULF SCENARIO, COULD BE SIMULATED AND WHERE NAVY AND AEGIS DESIGN ENGINEERS WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR TECHNICAL CONSULTATIONS. THE NAVY WILL ALSO MAKE AVAILABLE THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT AN AEGIS CRUISER
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IN NORFOLK.

2) PERTINENT INFORMATION FROM THE U.S. INVESTIGATION REPORT, WHEN IT IS COMPLETED, WILL ALSO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE ICAO TEAM.

3) ICAO COULD BE ENCOURAGED TO HAVE ITS TEAM ACCEPT THE U.S. OFFER AS OUTLINED. IF HOWEVER, THE ICAO TEAM CONTINUED TO REQUEST A VISIT TO THE USS VINCENNES, THEN THE U.S. WOULD CONSIDER SUCH A REQUEST. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE U.S. COULD NOT AT THIS TIME SHUT THE DOOR ON THE ICAO REQUEST.

IT WAS FURTHER AGREED THAT THE U.S. CIVIL/MILITARY GROUP GOING TO MONTREAL WOULD MEET WITH IATA AND IFALPA REPRESENTATIVES AFTER THE MEETING WITH ICAO. ALSO, THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO ICAO, EDMUND STOHR, WILL ACT AS LEADER OF THE U.S. GROUP IN MONTREAL."

2. NOTE: ATTACHMENT REFERRED TO IN MINUTES HAS NOT BEEN REPEATED IN THIS MESSAGE. SUBSTANCE OF ATTACHMENT WILL BE DISCUSSED BY U.S. TEAM IN MONTREAL AUGUST 3.

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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: SOPN
SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF WEDNESDAY MORNING TV NEWSCASTS
A. NBC TODAY SHOW

1. VINCENNES CREW FAULTED - A MILITARY INVESTIGATION INTO THE SHOOTING DOWN OF THAT IRANIAN AIRLINER A MONTH AGO HAS PLACED THE BLAME NOW ON HUMAN ERROR ON THE PART OF THE AMERICAN CREW, NOT A FAILURE OF THE SOPHISTICATED ELECTRONIC GEAR ABOARD THAT U.S. WARSHIP. (JOHN PALMER)

AFTER WEEKS OF INVESTIGATION, THOUSANDS OF PAGES OF TESTIMONY, AND AN EXHAUSTIVE REVIEW OF ALL THE TECHNICAL DATA, THE NAVY HAS NOW DETERMINED IT WAS THE HUMAN FACTOR THAT LED TO THE ACCIDENTAL SHOOTDOWN OF THE IRANIAN AIRLINER.

THE NAVY'S REPORT SHOWS THAT THE SOPHISTICATED HIGH-TECH RADARS AND SURVEILLANCE GEAR ABOARD THE VINCENNES WORKED AS ADVERTISED, AND SHOULD HAVE TOLD THE CREW THAT THE APPROACHING CIVILIAN AIRLINER POSED NO THREAT TO THE

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SHIP. INSTEAD, THE CREW AND THE CAPTAIN THOUGHT THEY WERE UNDER ATTACK FROM AN IRANIAN JET FIGHTER. THE REPORT INDICATES THAT THE RADAR OPERATORS HAD APPARENTLY

RELAYED INCORRECT INFORMATION TO THE CAPTAIN OF THE VINCENNES, AND THEN MADE THE DECISION TO SHOOT DOWN THE PLANE. THE DECISION WAS MADE IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE, UNDER STRESS FROM SEVERAL SIDES. THE VINCENNES HAD JUST SHOT IT OUT WITH SEVERAL SMALL IRANIAN GUNBOATS, AND

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RECENT INTELLIGENCE REPORTS INDICATED THE IRANIANS WERE PRIMED TO LAUNCH A TERRORIST ATTACK AGAINST THE FLEET.

SINCE THE CREW THOUGHT IT WAS UNDER ATTACK, NOW IT'S UP TO THE NAVY AND DEFENSE DEPARTMENT TO DETERMINE WHETHER ANY DISCIPLINARY ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN, OR WHETHER IT'S STILL BELIEVED THAT THE CREW HAD TAKEN THE PROPER ACTION, OR WHETHER THE WAY CREWS OPERATE SHOULD BE REVIEWED IN THE PERSIAN GULF. THE COMPLETE FORMAL REPORT SHOULD BE RELEASED IN A COUPLE WEEKS. (JIM MIKLASZEWSKI)

2. SOVIETS RELEASE PILOT - IN A SURPRISE MOVE THIS MORNING, THE SOVIET UNION FREED FROM PRISON THE YOUNG WEST GERMAN WHO FLEW HIS LIGHT PLANE TO MOSCOW AND LANDED IN RED SQUARE. MATHAIUS RUST MADE THAT FLIGHT IN MAY OF 1987, PENETRATING SOVIET AIR DEFENSES, AND THAT PROMPTED A SHAKEUP IN THE HIERARCHY OF THE SOVIET MILITARY. (JOHN PALMER)

3. INTERVIEW WITH SECRETARY OF STATE SHULTZ BY JOHN COCHRAN (VERBATIM TEXT) -

Q: AND GOOD MORNING FROM BUENOS AIRES, WHERE SECRETARY SHULTZ HAS BEEN MEETING WITH ARGENTINE OFFICIALS WHO ARE UNCLASSIFIED
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VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE ECONOMIC SITUATION HERE. APPARENTLY YOU'VE WALKED INTO AN ECONOMIC CRISIS, I GATHER THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE AREAS ARE CLOSED, BANKS ARE CLOSED, ARE THEY ASKING YOU FOR HELP?

A: THERE HAVE BEEN VERY GOOD DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THEIR TREASURY AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, OUR TREASURY AND FEDERAL RESERVE. WE'VE BEEN INVOLVED IN IT, AND I THINK THOSE DISCUSSIONS ARE GOING TO BE PRODUCTIVE AND FRUITFUL.

Q: IN OTHER WORDS, WE CAN HELP THEM OUT WITH SOME MONEY.

A: WELL, IT'S A VERY COMPLICATED SITUATION, SO I'LL JUST SAY I THINK THAT OUR DISCUSSIONS ARE FRUITFUL, AND WE'LL SEE.

Q: MR. SECRETARY, ISN'T THE DANGER, WHEN YOU'VE GOT ECONOMIC BAD TIMES, IN A COUNTRY WHICH IS EXPERIMENTING

WITH DEMOCRACY AFTER YEARS OF MILITARY RULE, ISN'T IT THE POSSIBILITY THAT A DEMAGOGUE CAN COME ALONG IN BAD TIMES, DON'T DEMAGOGUES PROSPER DURING BAD TIMES?

A: LET'S REMEMBER THAT THE PROBLEM THAT THEY'RE DEALING WITH RIGHT NOW, THE DEBT PROBLEM, AS YOU'VE SAID, IS

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SOMETHING THIS GOVERNMENT INHERITED FROM THE MILITARY. SO GOING BACK TO THE MILITARY ISN'T NECESSARILY A WAY TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM. ACTUALLY, I THINK IN THIS COUNTRY, THEY'VE MADE TREMENDOUS PROGRESS IN ESTABLISHING DEMOCRACY, ESTABLISHING THE RULE OF LAW, THEY'RE ABOUT TO HAVE ANOTHER ELECTION EARLY NEXT YEAR, THERE WILL BE A NEW PRESIDENT, THERE WILL BE AN ORDERLY TRANSFER OF POWER, AND SO A LOT OF IMPORTANT UNDERPINNING HAS BEEN PUT IN PLACE HERE. THEY DO HAVE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, THERE IS POSITIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THIS COUNTRY, AND AS YOU

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MUST HAVE NOTICED IN JUST WANDERING AROUND BUENOS AIRES, IT'S A PRETTY GOOD LOOKING PLACE. AND, SO, IT'S NOT ALL BAD.

Q: MR. SECRETARY, EARLIER THIS WEEK, YOU WERE IN CENTRAL AMERICA. IT OFTEN SEEMS THAT LATIN AMERICANS ARE NOT SYMPATHETIC TO YOUR PROBLEMS IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD, ESPECIALLY WITH GENERAL NORIEGA IN PANAMA, AND THE SANDINISTAS IN NICARAGUA. IS IT THE OLD PROBLEM OF IT BEING POLITICALLY DANGEROUS FOR LATIN AMERICANS TO BE SEEN SIDING PUBLICLY WITH THE GRINGOS FROM THE NORTH? IN GUATEMALA THE OTHER DAY, CENTRAL AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS REFUSED TO GO ALONG WITH A STATEMENT CONDEMNING THE SANDINISTAS.

A: WELL, THE STATEMENT BUSINESS THAT GOT SO MUCH ATTENTION WAS MISPLACED, AS FAR AS ATTENTION IS CONCERNED. THEY DRAFTED UP, AND WE PARTICIPATED WITH THEM, ONE STATEMENT. THEY DECIDED IT WAS TOO BOLD, AND AT THE SAME TIME WE MADE A STATEMENT THAT WAS VERY STRONG, AND HAD ALL OF THE THINGS THAT WERE IMPORTANT TO HAVE IN IT, AND IN THE LATIN WAY, IT WAS CLEARLY, IN ITS IMPLICIT SENSE, CRITICAL. BUT THEY PREFER NOT TO JUST COME RIGHT OUT AND BASH AWAY IN THAT KIND OF A SETTING. ON THE OTHER HAND, PRESIDENT ARIAS FOR EXAMPLE, HAS BEEN VERY CLEAR IN CRITICIZING WHAT THE NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT HAS DONE LATELY. HE'S BEEN VERY CLEAR IN CRITICIZING THE SOVIET UNION FOR THEIR BIG SHIPMENTS OF ARMS. SO THE POINT OF VIEW IS THERE. AS FAR AS OUR MEETINGS BE CONCERNED, THEY WERE EXCELLENT, AND I THINK THAT WE SORT OF FORGED A SENSE OF COMMUNION AMONG THE FOUR DEMOCRACIES AND OURSELVES TO KEEP WORKING IN THOSE FOUR COUNTRIES FOR

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DEMOCRACY, FOR THE RULE OF LAW, FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, FOR SECURITY, WHICH IS VERY MUCH ON THEIR MIND, AND THEY

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KNOW WHAT THE THREAT TO SECURITY IS. THEY ARE ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT PANAMA, BECAUSE OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF HAVING SOMEBODY INVOLVED IN DRUG RUNNING IN A POSITION OF POWER IN A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY. IT BOTHERS EVERYBODY.

Q: LET ME SWITCH TO THE GULF REGION. LOOKS LIKE THERE MAY BE A CEASE-FIRE IN THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR. THE NOW AYATOLLAH, HE'S BEEN PROMOTED TO AYATOLLAH IN LEBANON, THIS IS THE LEADER OF THE SHIITES THERE, FADLALAH, SAYS THAT THE AMERICAN HOSTAGES MIGHT BE RELEASED IF THE UNITED STATES WILL RELEASE ABOUT A BILLION DOLLARS OF IRANIAN ASSETS IN THE U.S. NOW YOU ARE VERY MUCH AGAINST TRADING ANYTHING FOR HOSTAGES. BUT IN FACT, THERE'S GOING TO BE AN IRAN-IRAQ CEASE-FIRE. COULDN'T THESE ASSETS BE RELEASED, AND WOULDN'T IT IMPROVE THE POSITION OF THE HOSTAGES?

A: THERE IS A PROCESS THROUGH WHICH FUNDS AND CLAIMS ARE DISPOSED OF. IT HAS BEEN WORKING QUITE WELL. IT'S A TRIBUNAL IN THE HAGUE. LOTS OF CLAIMS HAVE BEEN MADE IN IT, LOTS OF MONEY HAS BEEN PASSED OVER TO U.S. CLAIMANTS AND TO IRAN BY THE BILLIONS OF DOLLARS. IT'S A GOOD PROCESS, IT'S WORKING, AND THE ASSETS THAT YOU'RE REFERRING TO ARE PART OF THAT PROCESS.

Q: MR. SECRETARY, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

4. SHULTZ'S TRIP - SECRETARY OF STATE GEORGE SHULTZ CONTINUES THIS MORNING IN ARGENTINE WHERE HE MEETS AGAIN WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AS WELL AS WITH SOME OF THAT COUNTRY'S PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES. SHULTZ MET WITH PRESIDENT ALFONSIN ON TUESDAY FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON A FIVE HUNDRED MILLION U.S. LOAN SOUGHT BY ARGENTINA. AS SHULTZ MET WITH ARGENTINE LEADERS, 8,000 LEFTISTS MARCHED
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THROUGH THE STREETS OF BUENOS AIRES DENOUNCING THE UNITED STATES. MOST OF THE DETRACTORS WERE MEMBERS OF THE COUNTRY'S LEFTIST POLITICAL PARTIES. ARGENTINIANS WILL ELECT A NEW PRESIDENT NEXT YEAR. (JOHN PALMER)

B. CBS THIS MORNING

1. PERSIAN GULF - PENTAGON INVESTIGATORS REPORTEDLY HAVE CONCLUDED THAT HUMAN ERROR ON BOARD THE USS VINCENNES LED TO THE DOWNING OF IRAN'S FLIGHT 655. SOURCES QUOTED BY THE NEW YORK TIMES SAY THE INVESTIGATOR'S REPORT FOUND THAT COMBAT STRESS APPARENTLY

LED THE VINCENNES CREW TO MISINTERPRET WHAT THE SHIP'S HIGH TECH HARDWARE WAS SAYING. THEIR UNRELEASED REPORT CONCLUDES THAT SOMEONE MADE A MISTAKE AND 290 PEOPLE DIED.
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A TRAGIC PRICE. THE REPORT IS NOT EXPECTED TO BE RELEASED BY THE PENTAGON UNTIL LATER THIS MONTH AFTER DEFENSE SECRETARY CARLUCCI RETURNS FROM HIS TRIP TO THE SOVIET UNION AND HAS HAD TIME TO REVIEW IT. (FAITH DANIELS)

2. MOSCOW - TASS NEWS AGENCY SAYS THAT WEST GERMAN TEENAGER RUST HAS BEEN RELEASED AFTER SPENDING FOURTEEN MONTHS IN A SOVIET JAIL. RUST IS THE YOUNG PILOT WHO FLEW A LIGHT PLANE FROM FINLAND TO THE SOVIET CAPITAL LAST YEAR. TASS SAYS RUST WAS FREED AND EXPELLED FROM THE COUNTRY ON ORDERS OF THE PRESIDIUM OF THE SOVIET PARLIAMENT. (FAITH DANIELS)

3. NICARAGUA - THE U.S.-BACKED CONTRAS HAVE REPORTEDLY ATTACKED A CROWDED RIVER BOAT. IF TRUE, THE INCIDENT WOULD BREAK A FRAGILE CEASE-FIRE BETWEEN THE REBELS AND UNCLASSIFIED
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THE GOVERNMENT. FIFTY-FOUR HAVE SAID TO BE KILLED AND TWENTY-SEVEN OTHERS WERE WOUNDED INCLUDING AN AMERICAN CLERGYMAN. WITNESSES SAY THE ATTACKERS USED MACHINEGUNS ON CIVILIANS AND SOLDIERS IN THE BOAT. THERE HAS BEEN NO CLAIM OF RESPONSIBILITY FROM THE CONTRAS. (FAITH DANIELS)

C. ABC GOOD MORNING AMERICA

1. PERSIAN GULF - PENTAGON SOURCES ARE TELLING ABC NEWS THAT THE PERSONNEL ABOARD A U.S. NAVY SHIP MUST ACCEPT THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DOWNING OF AN IRANIAN AIR BUS IN THE PERSIAN GULF, AN INCIDENT THAT LEFT 290 CIVILIANS DEAD. INVESTIGATORS HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THE SOPHISTICATED RADAR EQUIPMENT ABOARD THE USS VINCENNES WAS WORKING PROPERLY AT THE TIME THE SHIP SHOT DOWN THE JETLINER LAST MONTH. ACCORDING TO THE REPORT CREW MEMBERS EITHER READ THE DATA INCORRECTLY OR PASSED ALONG THE WRONG INFORMATION TO THE CAPTAIN. (FORREST SAWYER)

2. NORTHERN IRELAND - A BRITISH SOLDIER IS IN SERIOUS CONDITION AFTER AN ATTACK BY GUNMAN. ELSEWHERE THE IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY IS CLAIMING RESPONSIBILITY FOR A SERIES OF BOMBING YESTERDAY. A CAR BOMB KILLED A POLICE OFFICER AND INJURED 18 PEOPLE IN A ATTACK OUTSIDE A SUPERMARKET IN WEST BELFAST WHICH LEFT A PART-TIME SOLDIER DEAD.

3. GENEVA - NEGOTIATORS FOR CUBA AND ANGOLA HAVE TURNED DOWN A SOUTH AFRICAN PROPOSAL FOR CEASEFIRE IN ANGOLA AND

NAMIBIA. YESTERDAY PRETORIA ANNOUNCED A TIMETABLE FOR WITHDRAWING ITS TROOPS FROM ANGOLA AND ALLOWING INDEPENDENCE IN NAMIBIA. THE OFFER WAS CONDITIONAL ON CUBA PULLING ITS FORCES OUT OF ANGOLA AND THE CLOSING OF

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AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS BASES IN THAT COUNTRY.
(FORREST SAWYER)

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AMCONSUL MONTREAL
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WHITE HOUSE PASS NSC/WEUROPE

E.O. 12356 N/A
TAGS: ECPS, PREL, CA
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION --- IRANIAN AIRBUS REPORT,
QUAYLE NOMINATION, ANNIVERSARY OF CZECH INVASION, ACID
RAIN.

1. TOPICS OF INTEREST IN CANADIAN NEWSPAPER EDITORIALS
AND COLUMNS ON AUG. 23 INCLUDED THE U.S. REPORT ON THE
SHOOTING DOWN OF THE IRANIAN AIRBUS, THE QUAYLE
NOMINATION AND THE PRAGUE SPRING. THERE WAS ALSO AN
ITEM ON ACID RAIN IN A VANCOUVER PAPER AUG. 19.
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EXCERPTS FOLLOW.

2. TORONTO SUN COLUMNIST MAJ.-GEN. RICHARD RUHMER WROTE
"SHOOT FIRST" ABOUT THE VINCENNES AFFAIR. "PURE
WHITWASH -- OR A REASONABLE, RATIONAL JUDGMENT? EITHER
WAY (AS PREDICTED OR EXPECTED) LAST WEEK THE UNITED
STATES EXONERATED ITSELF FROM ANY BLAME FOR THE JULY 3
DOWNING OF THE IRANIAN AIRBUS BY THE U.S. NAVY CRUISER
VINCENNES....

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3. "FOR US KEEN U.S.-WATCHERS, THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY DEFENCE SECRETARY FRANK CARLUCCI AND CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF ADM. WILLIAM CROWE, AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON AUG. 19, WERE RIGHT ON TARGET. YES, THERE WERE MISTAKES BY THE VINCENNES CREW. BUT, BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THEY WERE NOT 'CRUCIAL.'...

4. "SO WHAT'S THE VERDICT FROM THE WHITE HOUSE, THE SECRETARY OF DEFENCE AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF? AS CARLUCCI SAID, 'THE DETERMINATION IS THAT...THESE MISTAKES WERE NOT DUE TO NEGLIGENCE OR CULPABILITY.' UNBELIEVABLE. HAVING JUST ADMITTED THERE WERE MISTAKES MADE BY THE HUMAN BEINGS OPERATING THE RADAR AND OTHER EQUIPMENT ON THE VINCENNES, IT IS INCONTROVERTIBLY APPARENT THAT THEY WERE NEGLIGENT....

5. "THE NEXT PART IS STRONGLY REMINISCENT OF THE POSITION THE SOVIETS TOOK WHEN THEY WERE TRYING TO JUSTIFY SHOOTING DOWN KOREAN AIRLINES FLIGHT 007 BACK ON SEPT. 1, 1984. THEY, OF COURSE, BLAMED THE UNITED STATES FOR WHAT HAPPENED. IN THE IRANIAN AIRBUS INCIDENT, THE PATTERN IS THE SAME BECAUSE THE AMERICANS ARE NOW TRYING TO BLAME IRAN....WHEN YOU GET RIGHT DOWN
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TO IT, OUR AMERICAN FRIENDS ARE KNOWN FOR BEING TRIGGER HAPPY. 'SHOOT FIRST AND IDENTIFY LATER' IS A TACTICAL PRINCIPLE INGRAINED IN AMERICAN MILITARY PHILOSOPHY SINCE WORLD WAR II....

6. "THE VINCENNES' CAPTAIN AND CREW ARE TOTALLY EXONERATED. AND THE FINE AMERICAN PRINCIPLE OF SHOOT FIRST AND IDENTIFY LATER LIVES ON IN HONOR AND GLORY IN AMERICA'S ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCE -- JUST AS IT DOES IN THE SOVIET UNION....WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE (AS ONE WHO DID THE COMBAT THING FOR A LONG TIME) WHEN IT COMES TO SURVIVAL, I CANNOT DISAGREE WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF 'SHOOT FIRST AND IDENTIFY LATER.' NOR CAN I DISAGREE WITH CARLUCCI'S STATEMENT THAT CAPT. WILL ROGERS 'DID THE RIGHT THING UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES."

7. THE OTTAWA CITIZEN RAN AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED, "QUAYLE NOMINATION INSULT TO WOMEN." "SENATOR DAN QUAYLE'S STATUS AS A BABY-BOOMER HELPED HIM EARN THE REPUBLICAN VICE-PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION, BUT HIS YOUTHFULNESS IS ACCOMPANIED BY POLITICAL BAGGAGE THAT CAN ONLY HURT GEORGE BUSH.

8. "BUSH'S CHOICE OF THE YOUNG SENATOR FROM INDIANA AS HIS RUNNING MATE NOT ONLY INSULTS WOMEN, IT HAS OPENED OLD WOUNDS RELATED TO THE VIETNAM WAR...BUSH EVIDENTLY THINKS A ROBERT REDFORD LOOK-ALIKE WILL ATTRACT WOMEN TO THE REPUBLICANS JUST AS THE HANDSOME FILM STAR DRAWS

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THEM TO THE CINEMA....NOBODY SEEMS TO HAVE TOLD BUSH
THAT WOMEN, LIKE MEN, SOMETIMES VOTE ACCORDING TO ISSUES.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
AMCONSUL HALIFAX
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AMCONSUL TORONTO
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E.O. 12356 N/A
TAGS: ECPS, PREL, CA
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION -- IRANIAN AIRBUS REPORT,

9. "AND OBVIOUSLY NOBODY SUGGESTED THAT THE REPUBLICAN PARTY'S PROBLEMS WITH FEMALE VOTERS MAY STEM FROM ITS FAILURE TO REACH OUT TO THEM ON IMPORTANT ISSUES SUCH AS ABORTION AND THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT (ERA)...IT IS BOTH CRUDE AND A SIGN OF DESPERATION FOR THE REPUBLICANS TO ASSUME THAT QUAYLE'S PRETTY FACE WILL OBSCURE THESE FACTS WHEN WOMEN GO TO THE POLLS IN NOVEMBER.

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10. "THIS LUDICROUS APPROACH ILLUSTRATES WHY REPUBLICANS HAVE TROUBLE ATTRACTING THE FEMALE VOTE IN THE FIRST PLACE....THE DISCUSSION OF QUAYLE'S VIETNAM SERVICE RECORD WILL HELP DEFINE WHAT IS POLITICALLY ACCEPTABLE AND WHAT ISN'T, FOR A WHOLE GENERATION OF POLITICIANS TO COME. THE BUSH BID FOR THE PRESIDENCY, HOWEVER, MAY WELL PAY THE PRICE FOR THE SOUL-SEARCHING.

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11. THE FIRST OF TWO EDITORIALS ABOUT THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE PRAGUE INVASION APPEARED IN THE GLOBE AND MAIL UNDER THE HEADING, "CZECHOSLOVAKIA, 20 YEARS LATER." "CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S LEADERS CELEBRATED THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WARSAW PACT INVASION OF THEIR COUNTRY BY INSTRUCTING RIOT POLICE TO WADE INTO A CROWD OF CITIZENS IN PRAGUE AT THE WEEKEND. THEY WERE CALLING FOR DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AN END TO CENSORSHIP AND THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET TROOPS. IT WAS, WE SUPPOSE, APPROPRIATE TO THE OCCASION: A SMALL-SCALE REPLAY OF 1968 REFORM-CRUSHING....

12. "MR. DUBCEK WAS, INDEED, FAR AHEAD OF HIS TIME, BUT IN POLITICS IT DOESN'T DO TO BE TOO FAR AHEAD. ALTHOUGH THE REFORMS HE HAD IN MIND FOR CZECHOSLOVAKIA A LITTLE MORE THAN 20 YEARS AGO ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE NOW EMBRACED BY MIKHAIL GORBACHEV -- OPENNESS, MARKET-BASED ECONOMY, THE DIRECT ELECTION OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND SO ON -- THEY WERE PLAINLY NOT IDEAS WHOSE TIME HAD COME IN THE MID-SIXTIES. EVEN A RETROSPECTIVE SALUTE TO MR. DUBCEK'S TRAILBLAZING IS AWKWARD FOR CURRENT LEADERS....

13. "ALTHOUGH MR. GORBACHEV HAS NOT YET SET OUT A DOCTRINE OF HIS OWN DISAVOWING THE BREZHNEV PHILOSOPHY,
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HE HAS SPENT A LOT OF TIME STANDING OLD IDEAS ON THEIR HEADS. TRUE, HE RUNS LITTLE RISK OF BRINGING CZECH TANKS RUMBLING ACROSS THE BORDER TO END THE EXPERIMENT, BUT WHY DOES HE NOT DO MORE TO ENCOURAGE CORRESPONDING REFORMS IN COUNTRIES IN THE SOVIET SPHERE OF INFLUENCE? PERHAPS HE HAS BITTEN OFF AS MUCH AS HE CAN CHEW AT HOME...."

14. THE MONTREAL GAZETTE'S EDITORIAL WAS ENTITLED, "UNACCUSTOMED BOLDNESS COMES TO PRAGUE." "SINCE THEIR PRAGUE SPRING WAS CRUSHED 20 YEARS AGO BY SOVIET TANKS, CZECHOSLOVAKS LARGELY HAVE BEEN DEMORALIZED AND RESIGNED TO THEIR FATE. BUT THE HUGE DEMONSTRATION IN PRAGUE SUNDAY MARKING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE INVASION RAISES HOPES THAT A NEW POLITICAL AWAKENING IS BEGINNING IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA....

15. "MR. GORBACHEV'S POLICIES PUT CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S LEADERS IN AN AWKWARD SPOT -- PARTICULARLY MILOS JAKES, THE CZECHOSLOVAKIAN GENERAL SECRETARY, WHO PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN THE COMMUNIST PARTY PURGES THAT FOLLOWED THE 1968 INVASION. MR. JAKES HAS NOT BROUGHT ABOUT ANY FUNDAMENTAL REFORMS SINCE HE CAME TO POWER IN DECEMBER. BUT IF SUNDAY'S DEMONSTRATION IS A SIGN OF THINGS TO COME, THAT MAY CHANGE. A NEW PRAGUE SPRING MIGHT BE TOO MUCH TO HOPE FOR. BUT ANY REAL THAW WOULD BE WELCOME."

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88OTTAWA0069Z4

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16. ACID RAIN WAS THE TOPIC OF AN AUG. 19 EDIOTRIAL IN THE AFTERNOON VANCOUVER SUN ENTITLED, "FAILING THE ACID TEST." "THE FIRST THING CANADIANS FIND OUT ABOUT THE REPUBLICANS' DASHING BUT LITTLE-KNOWN CANDIDATE FOR

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THE WHITE HOUSE
AMCONSUL HALIFAX
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AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL TORONTO
AMCONSUL CALGARY
AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

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WHITE HOUSE PASS NSC/WEUROPE

E.O. 12356 N/A
TAGS: ECPS, PREL, CA
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION -- IRANIAN AIRBUS REPORT,

VICE-PRESIDENT IS UNPLEASANT. SENATOR DAN QUAYLE IS AN
ARDENT FOE OF ACID-RAIN CONTROLS - AS YOU MIGHT EXPECT
OF A REPRESENTATIVE OF A STATE THAT GETS ITS ELECTRICITY
FROM BURNING COAL.

17. "THAT DOESN'T BODE TOO WELL FOR CHANCES OF A
CLEANUP IF THE BUSH-QUAYLE TICKET SHOULD WIN THE
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AMERICAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. VICE-PRESIDENT GEORGE
BUSH HAS ALREADY HAD PLENTY OF PRACTICE HELPING
PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN RESIST PROGRESS TOWARD AN
INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT TO REDUCE THE EMISSIONS THAT
CAUSE ACID RAIN. IT LOOKS AS IF MICHAEL DUKAKIS IS
CANADA'S ONLY HOPE OF GETTING SOME EFFECTIVE HELP ON
THIS ISSUE FROM SOUTH OF THE BORDER.

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Date. 9/18/1

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ MONTREAL 02959

FROM USMISSION ICAO

STATE FOR IO AND EB/TRA/AVP

FAA FOR API-1, AIA-100 AND AGC-7

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: EAIR, ICAO, IR

SUBJECT: ICAO INVESTIGATION OF IRAN AIR 655

REF: (A) JCS WASHINGTON 081801Z AUG 88; (B) STATE 235222

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. THE FOLLOWING IS THE INFORMATION KNOWN TO U.S.
MISSION TO ICAO AS OF 10 AUGUST.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
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PAGE 02 MONTRE 02959 111510Z

3. ON SEPTEMBER 8 AND 9 REPRESENTATIVES OF UNITED ARAB
EMIRATES, IRAN, IFALPA AND IATA WILL BE MEETING IN ICAO
REGIONAL OFFICE, PARIS, UNDER ICAO AUSPICES, TO BE
FOLLOWED ON 12/13 SEPTEMBER BY MEMBERS OF THE GULF
COOPERATION COUNCIL STATES INCLUDING SAUDI ARABIA,
BAHRAIN, QATAR, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, OMAN, IATA AND
IFALPA. THE LATTER MEETING HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY SAUDI
ARABIA AND BAHRAIN, ALTHOUGH THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
SEEM TO HAVE SOME DIFFICULTY AND ASK FOR A DELAY IN THE

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88MONTRE002959

MEETING. THE ICAO COUNCIL PRESIDENT HAS INDICATED THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AND URGES THEM TO AT LEAST SEND SOMEONE WHO CAN MONITOR THE MEETING.

4. IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSED CEASEFIRE, THE ICAO COUNCIL PRESIDENT HAS FORWARDED AN AIDE-MEMOIRE TO THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL AND HAS BEEN ASSURED THAT AVIATION SAFETY WILL BE A PART OF THE CEASEFIRE NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA.

5. REGARDING RECOVERY OF THE FLIGHT DATA RECORDER AND THE COCKPIT VOICE RECORDER, THE ICAO REGIONAL OFFICE IN CAIRO REPORTS THE LOCAL PRESS AS INDICATING THAT IRAN HAS RETURNED PRIVATE BRITISH EQUIPMENT WHICH THEY HOPED TO USE TO RECOVER THESE RECORDERS TO THE BRITISH. CONTACTS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE WOULD INDICATE THAT WHILE THEY MAY EXPECT A REQUEST FROM IRAN THERE HAS NOT BEEN ONE AT THIS POINT. THE GOF HAS SAID THAT ANY ACTIVITY ON THEIR PART WOULD HAVE TO BE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF ICAO.

6. MISSION RECEIVED COPY OF REVISED NOTAM PER REQUEST IN REF A BUT HAS NOT FORMALLY PROVIDED A COPY TO REPS OF CONCERNED INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SINCE IT IS UNDERSTOOD FAA HAS RAISED OBJECTIONS TO THE REVISED NOTAM.

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PAGE 03 MONTRE 02959. 111510Z

BASED ON INFORMAL CONSULTATION WITH ICAO, IATA AND IFALPA, THE REVISED TEXT FAILS TO RESOLVE EARLIER PROBLEMS AND WILL LIKELY RUN INTO THE SAME PROMULGATION PROBLEMS AS THE PREVIOUS NOTAM. ALL THREE ORGANIZATIONS HAVE OFFERED SUGGESTED REVISIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN FORWARDED TO FAA FOR REVIEW AND COORDINATION WITH JCS AND THE DEPARTMENT. MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO SUCH REQUESTS.

7. MISSION ALSO RECOMMENDS THAT REFERENCE BE MADE IN THE REVISED NOTAM TO THE WARNING INFORMATION SET FORTH IN REF B AND THAT, IN LINE WITH JCS PROPOSALS THAT CIVAIR FLIGHT PROFILES BE CHANGED TO TRANSIT OVER WATER AT 25,000 FEET OR ABOVE THAT MENTION BE MADE THAT SUCH AIRCRAFT WOULD NORMALLY NOT BE SUBJECT TO REQUESTS FOR IDENTIFICATION OR SIMILAR LANGUAGE.

8. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE US MISSION TO ICAO IN MONTREAL HAS BEEN INFORMALLY ADVISED THAT THE INVESTIGATION TEAM HAS RECEIVED "FULL COOPERATION" FROM THE IRANIAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES WHILE IN IRAN AND THE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THE SAME COOPERATION CAN BE EXPECTED FROM THE USG. STOHR

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE 920393

IS/FPC/CDR PEB

Date. 9/18/96

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 PM/ISP:MSMITH
 DOD:JALLEN
 NAVY:JGEER

L/NEA:JARBOGAST S/S:RWMUELLER
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UNCLAS STATE 284709

E.O. 12356: N/A
 TAGS: SZ, PREL, IR, US
 SUBJECT: IRAN AIR FLIGHT 655

1. DEPARTMENT IS IN THE PROCESS OF INVESTIGATING THE
 MECHANICS OF PROVIDING EX GRATIA COMPENSATION TO THE
 FAMILY MEMBERS OF THOSE KILLED ON IRAN AIR FLIGHT 655 ON
 JULY 3, 1988. DEPARTMENT HAS NOT WORKED OUT THE DETAILS, /
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BUT PURSUANT TO THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION, THE GOVERNMENT
 OF IRAN WILL NOT RECEIVE THE COMPENSATION PAYMENTS ON
 BEHALF OF ITS NATIONALS. THE DEPARTMENT IS EXPLORING THE
 POSSIBILITY OF USING AN INTERMEDIARY BOTH TO HELP OBTAIN
 INFORMATION ABOUT THE VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES AND TO
 HELP DISBURSE COMPENSATION PAYMENTS IN IRAN DIRECTLY TO
 FAMILY MEMBERS...

2. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO APPROACH NEA TO DETERMINE

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WHETHER THE SWISS GOVERNMENT IN ITS CAPACITY AS PROTECTING POWER FOR THE UNITED STATES, WOULD BE WILLING TO UNDERTAKE EITHER OR BOTH OF THESE TWO FUNCTIONS. FYI. THE DEPARTMENT IS ALSO DETERMINING WHETHER THE ICRC IS WILLING AND ABLE TO SERVE AS AN INTERMEDIARY. AFTER OFFERING ITS SERVICES INFORMALLY, THE ICRC LATER SAID IT MAY LACK THE MANPOWER TO DO THIS BECAUSE OF ITS

INVOLVEMENT IN THE REPATRIATION OF POWS IN IRAN AND IRAQ. END FYI. EMBASSY SHOULD USE TALKING POINTS AS FOLLOWS:

-- THE UNITED STATES IS IN THE PROCESS OF INVESTIGATING THE MECHANICS OF MAKING EX GRATIA PAYMENTS TO THE FAMILY MEMBERS OF THE VICTIMS OF THE IRAN AIR FLIGHT 655. THE UNITED STATES NEEDS TO OBTAIN INFORMATION REGARDING (1) FULL NAMES OF THE IRANIAN VICTIMS; (2) FULL NAMES OF THE CHILDREN, SPOUSE, AND PARENTS OF THE VICTIMS, ALONG WITH CURRENT ADDRESSES, AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS; (3) IF THE SURVIVING FAMILY MEMBER IS A CHILD, THE NAME AND RELATIONSHIP TO THE CHILD OF HIS/HER GUARDIAN. EVENTUALLY THE USG WILL ALSO NEED TO MAKE PAYMENTS TO THE FAMILY MEMBERS IN IRAN, BUT IS UNWILLING TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN TO ACCOMPLISH THIS.

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-- CONSEQUENTLY THE UNITED STATES ASKS WHETHER THE GOS IN ITS CAPACITY AS PROTECTING POWER FOR THE UNITED STATES, AND IN VIEW OF ITS LONG TRADITIONS OF NEUTRALITY AND HUMANITARIANISM, WOULD CONSIDER UNDERTAKING EITHER OR BOTH THE FUNCTIONS OF OBTAINING RELIABLE INFORMATION AND DISBURSING PAYMENTS DIRECTLY TO THOSE FAMILY MEMBERS IN IRAN.

-- AS A GENERAL MATTER, TO OBTAIN RELIABLE INFORMATION, WE ENVISAGE THAT THE GOS MAY NEED TO APPROACH THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN IN THE FIRST INSTANCE TO CONFIRM THE NAMES OF VICTIMS ON THE PASSENGER LIST CURRENTLY HELD BY THE UNITED STATES. IT WOULD ALSO BE NECESSARY FOR THE GOS TO DETERMINE WHO THE FAMILY MEMBERS OF THE VICTIMS ARE, THEIR ADDRESSES, AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS, EITHER THROUGH CONTACT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN OR DIRECTLY WITH THE FAMILY THEMSELVES. THE GOS WOULD THEN NEED TO OBTAIN DOCUMENTATION FROM THE FAMILY MEMBERS ESTABLISHING THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO THE VICTIMS.

-- TO DISBURSE PAYMENTS, THE GOS WOULD HAVE TO ESTABLISH A METHOD OF PAYMENT DIRECTLY TO THE FAMILY MEMBERS WHICH HAD NO RISK OF GOVERNMENT OF IRAN INTERFERENCE. FOR FAMILY MEMBERS ACCEPTING PAYMENT, THE GOS WOULD HAVE TO OBTAIN A STATEMENT RELEASING THE USG FROM ANY FURTHER

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LIABILITY. (THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT YET DETERMINED THE AMOUNT OF THESE PAYMENTS.)

-- IF GOS IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE RESOURCES THESE SERVICES WOULD REQUIRE, THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS REIMBURSEMENT TO THE GOS FOR EXPENSES INCURRED.

3. WE ARE PREPARED TO RESPOND TO ANY QUESTIONS THE MFA MAY HAVE. DEPARTMENT WILL INFORM SWISS EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON OF THIS MATTER AND WOULD BE PREPARED TO
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PAGE 04 STATE 284709

DISCUSS IT FURTHER WITH EMBASSY OFFICIALS HERE IF THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL.

4. PLEASE ADVISE AS TO THE SWISS RESPONSE. SLUG RESPONSE FOR SEAN MURPHY, L/CID AND FOR BETTY KIRINCICH, CA/OCS/CCS/NEA. WHITEHEAD

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE 920393 IS/FPC/CDR *pas* Date. 9/18/

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

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FOLLOWING REPEAT SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO FAA WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC JCS WASHDC USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL
FA BRUSSELS CJTFME IO MISSIONS COLLECTIVE BUENOS AIRES
CANBERRA BRASILIA OTTAWA BEIJING PRAGUE HAVANA CAIRO
TOKYO BONN ACCRA NEW DELHI JAKARTA BAGHDAD MEXICO
LAGOS ISLAMABAD PANAMA LIMA RIYADH DAKAR MADRID BERN
STOCKHOLM TUNIS MOSCOW LONDON DAR ES SALAAM CARACAS
NOVEMBER 10

QUOTE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ MONTREAL 04089

FROM USMISSION ICAO

STATE FOR IO AND EB/TRA/AVP

FAA FOR API-1, AIA-100 AND AGC-7

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO GULF WAR COLLECTIVE

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 02 STATE 373564

TAGS: EAIR, ICAO, IR

SUBJECT: ICAO INVESTIGATION REPORT OF IR 655 INCIDENT

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. THE REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION
ORGANIZATION (ICAO) INVESTIGATION INTO THE ACCIDENTAL
SHOOT-DOWN OF IRAN AIR 655 (C-WP/8708) WAS MADE AVAILABLE
TO THE U.S. MISSION ON NOVEMBER 10. WE HAVE SENT COPIES

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OF THE MAIN BODY OF THE REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT (IO), JCS AND FAA BY FAX. THREE COPIES OF THE FULL REPORT, INCLUDING APPENDICES, WILL BE SENT BY OVERNIGHT SERVICE TO THE SAME ADDRESSEES.

3. ON FIRST EXAMINATION THE REPORT APPEARS TO AVOID CONTROVERSIAL POLITICAL QUESTIONS; IT CONCLUDES THAT THE AIRCRAFT WAS DESTROYED BY TWO SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES BECAUSE IT "WAS PERCEIVED AS A MILITARY AIRCRAFT WITH HOSTILE INTENTIONS" (PARA 3.2.1). THE REPORT CONTAINS EIGHT SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS (PARA 4) TO IMPROVE CIVIL/MILITARY COORDINATION "IN AREAS WHERE MILITARY ACTIVITIES POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS TO CIVIL FLIGHT OPERATIONS TAKE PLACE."

4. WE EXPECT THE COUNCIL TO DISCUSS C-WP/8708 ON NOVEMBER 28 OR 30. A NUMBER OF COUNCIL MEMBERS MAY MAKE GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE REPORT AT THAT TIME, BUT WE EXPECT THAT THE RESULT OF THE DISCUSSION WILL BE TO REFER THE REPORT TO THE AIR NAVIGATION COMMISSION (ANC), FOR TECHNICAL COMMENT. THE COUNCIL CAN BE EXPECTED TO TAKE FINAL ACTION ONLY AFTER THE ANC REVIEW IS COMPLETE, PROBABLY EARLY IN 1989.

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PAGE 03. STATE 373564

5. THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO INSTRUCT EMBASSIES IN COUNCIL MEMBER COUNTRIES, I.E. ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, BRAZIL, CANADA, CHINA, CUBA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, EGYPT, FRANCE, FRG, GHANA, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAQ, ITALY, JAPAN, KENYA, MEXICO, NIGERIA, PAKISTAN, PANAMA, PERU, SAUDI ARABIA, SENEGAL, SPAIN, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, TUNISIA, USSR, UNITED KINGDOM, TANZANIA AND VENEZUELA, TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS IN CAPITALS DRAWING ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION HAS NOW COMPLETED ITS INVESTIGATION INTO THE ACCIDENTAL SHOOT-DOWN OF IRAN AIR 655 ON JULY 3, 1988 AND MADE THE REPORT AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS OF THE ICAO COUNCIL.

-- THE REPORT IS QUITE DETAILED. THE MAIN BODY CONSISTS OF 26 PAGES; THERE ARE MORE THAN 150 PAGES IN ATTACHMENTS. IT CONTAINS A NUMBER OF SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE CIVIL/MILITARY COORDINATION.

-- WE BELIEVE THAT THE REPORT REQUIRES DETAILED CONSIDERATION BY THE ICAO'S AIR NAVIGATION COMMISSION WHICH IS WELL QUALIFIED TO ADVISE THE COUNCIL ON THIS HIGHLY TECHNICAL QUESTION.

-- WE ANTICIPATE THAT INITIAL DISCUSSION OF THE REPORT

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WILL TAKE PLACE IN COUNCIL NEAR THE END OF NOVEMBER.

-- THE USG HOPES THAT (NAME OF COUNTRY)'S REPRESENTATIVES
ON THE ICAO COUNCIL WILL BE INSTRUCTED TO SUPPORT REFERRA
OF THE REPORT TO THE AIR NAVIGATION COMMISSION FOR
DETAILED EXAMINATION. FINAL ACTION BY THE COUNCIL WOULD
TAKE PLACE AFTER IT RECEIVES THE REPORT OF THE AIR
NAVIGATION COMMISSION. STOHR
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FROM USMISSION ICAO

STATE FOR IO, L AND EB/TRA/AVP

FAA FOR API-1, AIA-100 AND AGC-7

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: AORC, EAIR, ICAO, IR

SUBJECT: ICAO CONSIDERATION OF IR 655 SHOOTDOWN PROMISES
TO BECOME MORE TROUBLESOME

REF: (A) MONTREAL 4375; (B) MONTREAL 4386

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. REFTELS REPORT THE DETAILS OF ICAO'S PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATION OF THE ICAO INVESTIGATION TEAM'S REPORT ON THE SHOOTDOWN OF IRAN AIR 655. THE U.S. AVOIDED BEING CONDEMNED BY THIS WORLD BODY, DESPITE DETERMINED EFFORTS BY IRAN AND THE SOVIET UNION. IN LARGE MEASURE, THIS WAS DUE TO LOBBYING IN CAPITALS AND THE ICAO COUNCIL

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PRESIDENT'S ADEPT HANDLING OF THE MEETING. AT THIS SESSION, THE ICAO COUNCIL MERELY REAFFIRMED THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE THAT STATES MUST REFRAIN FROM RESORTING TO THE USE OF WEAPONS AGAINST CIVIL AIRCRAFT, AND REFERRED THE REPORT TO THE AIR NAVIGATION COMMISSION (ANC) FOR REVIEW OF THE REPORT'S TECHNICAL RECOMMENDATIONS. COUNCIL SHOULD RECEIVE THE ANC REPORT AND RESUME DISCUSSION OF THE ENTIRE ITEM AT ITS NEXT SESSION (FEBRUARY/MARCH).

3. THE USG MAY BE LESS SUCCESSFUL AT FUTURE ICAO SESSIONS. SUPPORT FROM OUR TRADITIONAL ALLIES WAS TEPID (AT BEST), AND SEVERAL COUNCIL MEMBERS CONCURRED IN THE USG POSITION ONLY UPON INSTRUCTIONS FROM THEIR CAPITALS. THE IRAN REPRESENTATIVES STAYED AWAY FROM POLEMICS, FOCUSSED ON SPECIFIC TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE REPORT AND ARGUING THAT THE REPORT REVEALED SIGNIFICANT SHORTCOMINGS IN THE NAVY'S CONDUCT. (FOR EXAMPLE, IRAN FOCUSSED ON THE QUALITY OF THE VINCENNES' RADIO WARNINGS; ON THE NOTAM WHICH THE ICAO INVESTIGATION TEAM HAS ALREADY LABELLED (NOT IN CONFORMITY" WITH ICAO RULES; AND ON THE LOCATION OF THE VINCENNES AND IRAN AIR 655 IN RELATION TO IRANIAN TERRITORIAL WATERS AND TO IRANIAN AIRSPACE RESPECTIVELY AT THE TIME OF THE SHOOTDOWN.) OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS (INCLUDING TO SOME EXTENT OUR ALLIES) HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY PICKED UP ON THESE AND OTHER POINTS AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO PURSUE THEM AT LATER ICAO CONSIDERATION OF THE SHOOTDOWN. THE SOVIETS AGGRESSIVELY SUPPORTED THE IRANIAN POSITION AND EMPHASIZED THE NEED

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88MONTRE004387

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FOR ICAO TO HANDLE THIS MATTER IN THE SAME WAY IT HANDLED
THE KAL 007 SHOOTDOWN. THE SOVIETS PRESSED FOR
CONDEMNATION OF THE SHOOTDOWN, AND WITHDRAWAL OF THE US
NOTAM. THEY THREATENED TO RAISE THE ISSUE OF AN
EXTRAORDINARY ICAO ASSEMBLY TO CONSIDER THE SHOOTDOWN AND

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2213
INFO FAA WASHDC PRIORITY
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JCS WASHDC
USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL
FAA BRUSSELS
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AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY BEIJING
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY LIMA
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AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
IO MISSIONS COLLECTIVE

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88MONTRE004387

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 MONTREAL 04387

FROM USMISSION ICAO

STATE FOR IO, L AND EB/TRA/AVP

FAA FOR API-1, AIA-100 AND AGC-7

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: AORC, EAIR, ICAO, IR

SUBJECT: ICAO CONSIDERATION OF IR 655 SHOOTDOWN PROMISES

MAKE SOVIET VIEWS KNOWN TO THE PRESS.

4. MISSION WILL CONTINUE TO REPORT ON SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS AS THEY OCCUR. WE WILL NEED CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL SUPPORT FROM WASHINGTON AND FROM POSTS WHEN CONSIDERATION OF THESE ISSUES RESUMES AFTER NEW YEAR. MISSION WILL PREPARE TALKING POINTS IN JANUARY FOR USE IN DEMARCHES IN CAPITALS. STOHR

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Date. 9/18/91

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FROM USMISSION ICAO

STATE FOR IO, L AND EB/TRA/AVP

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: ICAO, EAIR, AORC, IR
 SUBJECT: UPDATE ON ICAO CONSIDERATION OF IR 655

REF: 88 MONTREAL 4482

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. REFTTEL INDICATED VARIOUS STEPS WE RECOMMENDED BE TAKEN
 TO IMPROVE PROSPECTS FOR A FAVORABLE OUTCOME OF ICAO
 CONSIDERATION OF IR 655 SHOOTDOWN. THESE INCLUDED:

-- MODIFICATION OF THE US NOTAM FOR THE GULF AREA TO
 ELIMINATE ANY BASIS FOR THE ASSERTION CONTAINED IN THE
 ICAO REPORT THAT "PROMULGATION OF THE NOTAM WAS NOT IN
 CONFORMITY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF ICAO ANNEX 15" (PARA
 2.2.4 OF THE REPORT);

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 02 MONTRE 00114 171553Z

-- OBSERVABLE MOVEMENT TOWARD US RATIFICATION OF ARTICLE
 3BIS TO THE CHICAGO CONVENTION; AND

-- DEVELOPMENT OF AN UNCLASSIFIED STATEMENT WHICH CAN BE
 USED IN OPEN MEETINGS TO COUNTER CHARGES THAT THE USS
 VINCENNES WAS IN IRANIAN TERRITORIAL WATERS AT THE TIME
 OF THE INCIDENT.

3. PRESENT PLANNING IS FOR THE AIR NAVIGATION COMMISSION.

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(ANC) TO ESTABLISH AN AD HOC WORKING GROUP CONSISTING OF COMMISSIONERS WITH AIR TRAFFIC BACKGROUNDS TO REVIEW THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE INVESTIGATION REPORT AND PRESENT ITS VIEWS TO THE ANC. THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP IS EXPECTED TO MEET FEBRUARY 3 AND 6 SO THAT IT CAN PRESENT ITS VIEWS TO THE ANC ON FEBRUARY 9. THE ANC SHOULD ISSUE A DRAFT REPORT TO COUNCIL BY FEBRUARY 24 AND APPROVE THE REPORT ON MARCH 2. A COUNCIL WORKING PAPER CONTAINING THE REPORT SHOULD BE ISSUED MARCH 10, CLEARING THE WAY TO FINAL COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION BEFORE THE CURRENT COUNCIL SESSION ENDS ON MARCH 23.

4. MISSION HOPES IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO TAKE THE STEPS RECOMMENDED REFTEL AND OUTLINED IN PARA 1, ABOVE, BY MARCH 1, AS WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THEY WOULD CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO PROSPECTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME IN COUNCIL. ALSO, AN UNCLASSIFIED STATEMENT WILL BE NEEDED BY THAT TIME TO COUNTER THE POINT MADE BY IRAN AT COUNCIL MEETING ON DECEMBER 5 THAT IR 655 WAS OUTSIDE THE RESTRICTED AREA (OF FIVE NAUTICAL MILES AND 2000 FOOT ALTITUDE) SET FORTH IN THE U.S. INTERNATIONAL NOTICES TO AIRMEN IN EFFECT ON JULY 3. STOHR

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FROM USMISSION ICAO.

DEPT. FOR IO/T AND EB/TRA/AVP

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: AORC, EAIR, ICAO

SUBJECT: INVESTIGATION OF IR 655 INCIDENT

1. THE U.S. MISSION TO THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION
 ORGANIZATION (ICAO) HAS RECEIVED AN OFFICIAL REQUEST FROM
 THE ICAO SECRETARY GENERAL FOR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO
 PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING:

(A) TAPES AND, IF AVAILABLE, TRANSCRIPTS OF THE WARNINGS
 ISSUED TO ANY AIRCRAFT BY THE U.S. NAVAL WARSHIPS IN THE
 AREA BETWEEN 06.47.00 AND 07.00.00 GMT (GREENWICH MEAN
 TIME), PREFERABLY ONE TAPE CONTAINING THE WARNINGS ON
 243 MHZ AND ANOTHER TAPE CONTAINING THE WARNINGS ON 121.5
 MHZ. ICAO WOULD APPRECIATE A TIME REFERENCE (HOURS,

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MINUTES, SECONDS) FOR THE BEGINNING OF EACH TRANSMISSION,
 AND A SOURCE IDENTIFICATION (SHIP) FOR EACH TRANSMISSION;
 AND

(B) A POSITION PLOT CONTAINING SUFFICIENT GEOGRAPHICAL
 CO-ORDINATES AND CORRESPONDING TIME REFERENCES (HOURS,
 MINUTES, SECONDS) FOR IRAN AIR 655, THE VINCENNES, THE
 SIDES AND THE MONTGOMERY BETWEEN 06.47.00 AND 06.55.00
 GMT.

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2. A FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF THIS REQUEST WOULD BE
MOST APPRECIATED. STOHR

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88STATE 228435

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE 930393

IS/FPC/CDR

Date. 9/18/96

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DEPT PLEASE PASS ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL, UNSC, IR, US
SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL: THE VICE PRESIDENT'S
STATEMENT ON THE IRANAIR INCIDENT, JULY 14

1. THERE FOLLOWS THE TEXT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT'S
STATEMENT IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL JULY 14 ON THE
IRANAIR INCIDENT.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

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MR. PRESIDENT, THANK YOU FOR THE WARM WELCOME WHICH
YOU EXTENDED TO ME AND FOR RECEIVING ME IN THE OFFICE
OF THE PRESIDENT. I AM PLEASED THAT THE SECURITY
COUNCIL IS PRESIDED OVER THIS MONTH BY A
REPRESENTATIVE OF A COUNTRY WITH WHICH MY COUNTRY HAS
VERY CORDIAL RELATIONS, AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT YOUR
DIPLOMATIC SKILLS WILL ASSURE A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF
THIS DEBATE. WITH YOUR INDULGENCE, MR. PRESIDENT, I
WOULD LIKE TO SALUTE A FORMER COLLEAGUE OF MINE WITH

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WHOM I SERVED IN THE UNITED NATIONS MANY YEARS AGO. I AM SPEAKING OF COURSE OF THE FORMER AMBASSADOR AND NOW THE DISTINGUISHED SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THIS BODY, JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR. ALL OF US AROUND THIS TABLE HAVE GREAT RESPECT FOR HIS EFFORTS TO ENHANCE WORLD PEACE.

MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THIS DISTINGUISHED SECURITY COUNCIL: I HAVE COME HERE TODAY TO REPRESENT THE UNITED STATES, AT THE REQUEST OF PRESIDENT REAGAN, BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ISSUES AT STAKE -- NOT JUST THE TERRIBLE HUMAN TRAGEDY OF IRANAIR.655, BUT THE CONTINUING CONFLICT BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE IN THE PERSIAN GULF.

HAVING BEEN THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THIS BODY, I KNOW WHAT A GRAVE RESPONSIBILITY THIS COUNCIL BEARS AND THE GOOD IT CAN DO WHEN IT ACTS WITH REALISM AND WISDOM. WE ARE IN URGENT NEED OF REALISM AND WISDOM NOW. AFTER TWO YEARS OF REJECTING, DISREGARDING A SOLEMN RESOLUTION OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND AFTER TWO YEARS OR MORE OF BERATING THIS BODY, IRAN COMES NOW WITH RECKLESS INTEMPERATE CHARGES AGAINST MY
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COUNTRY; ON BALANCE I EXPECT IT IS GOOD THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER APPEARED HERE TODAY BECAUSE MAYBE THIS BODY CAN NOW BE THE CATALYST TO END THE BLOODSHED AND BRING THE PEACE.

MR. PRESIDENT, THE PERSIAN GULF IS A REGION OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES AND THE ECONOMY OF THE WORLD. AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN FORCES -- NOT JUST AMERICANS -- ARE IN THE GULF, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE STATES OF THE AREA, TO MEET A VITAL NEED -- TO HELP ENSURE THE UNIMPEDED FLOW OF OIL AND TO KEEP NEUTRAL COMMERCE MOVING IN THE FACE OF A VERY REAL THREAT TO INNOCENT SHIPPING. THIS IS OUR LEGAL RIGHT.

IRANIAN MINES, DELIBERATELY SOWN, HAVE DISRUPTED INNOCENT PASSAGE AND DAMAGED UNARMED MERCHANT VESSELS AND A U.S. NAVAL SHIP IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS. SMALLBOAT ATTACKS OF IRAN ON NON-BELLIGERENT MERCHANT SHIPS CONTINUE UNABATED. THESE ACTIONS ARE IN BLATANT VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS, AND THEY GIVE THE LIE TO THE ASSERTIONS THAT IRAN SUPPORTS FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION IN THE GULF.

WE HAVE INCREASED THE SIZE OF OUR FORCES FROM
TRADITIONAL LEVELS TO PROTECT U.S. FLAG SHIPPING AND

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TO ASSIST OTHER NEUTRAL VESSELS UNDER UNLAWFUL ATTACK, WHEN THEY REQUEST ASSISTANCE. FIVE EUROPEAN NAVIES IN ADDITION TO OUR OWN -- A TOTAL OF SOME 43 SHIPS -- ARE NOW IN THE GULF TO COUNTER IRAN'S RECKLESS BEHAVIOR TOWARD NEUTRAL SHIPS ENGAGED IN LAWFUL COMMERCE. I AM PROUD OF OUR LEADERSHIP IN MEETING THIS CHALLENGE.

TOGETHER WE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE WILL KEEP THE PERSIAN GULF OPEN, NO MATTER WHAT THE THREAT. I AM HERE TO REAFFIRM TO THOSE WHO DEPEND ON US AND TO
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THOSE WHO WOULD THREATEN US, THAT WE WILL NOT ALTER THIS COURSE.

MR. PRESIDENT, THE CRITICAL ISSUE CONFRONTING THIS BODY IS NOT THE HOW AND WHY OF IRANAIR 655 WHICH I WILL DISCUSS. IT IS THE CONTINUING REFUSAL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO COMPLY WITH RESOLUTION 598, TO NEGOTIATE AN END TO THE WAR WITH IRAQ, AND TO CEASE ITS ACTS OF AGGRESSION AGAINST NEUTRAL SHIPPING IN THE PERSIAN GULF.

THE VICTIMS OF IRANAIR 655 ARE ONLY THE MOST RECENT CASUALTIES OF A BRUTAL AND SENSELESS WAR THAT HAS BROUGHT IMMENSE PAIN AND SUFFERING TO THE PEOPLE OF BOTH SIDES.

IRAN LONG AGO COULD HAVE ACCEPTED, AND CAN STILL ACCEPT, AN HONORABLE END TO THE WAR. AS A FIRST STEP, IRAN SHOULD DECLARE ITS READINESS UNEQUIVOCALLY TO COMPLY WITH RESOLUTION 598 -- TODAY, FOR THE FIRST TIME, RIGHT HERE, NOW, BEFORE THIS BODY. IT CAN ACT NOW TO END THE UNSPEAKABLE SACRIFICES THAT THE PEOPLE OF BOTH IRAN AND IRAQ ARE BEING ASKED TO MAKE. WHAT POSSIBLE OBJECTIVE COULD BE WORTH THE HUMAN SUFFERING AND PAIN, THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF CASUALTIES, AND THE ECONOMIC DEVASTATION THAT THAT WAR HAS CAUSED ON BOTH SIDES?

A PARTICULARLY HORRIFYING ASPECT OF THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR IS THE INCREASINGLY ROUTINE USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS. WHO CAN FORGET THE PICTURES OF ENTIRE FAMILIES LYING DEAD IN THE STREETS OF THEIR VILLAGES, INNOCENT OF ANYTHING, YET KILLED IN THIS SAVAGE WAY? THIS USE OF
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CHEMICAL WEAPONS MUST STOP. LET ME MAKE A SPECIAL APPEAL HERE TODAY FOR ALL NATIONS TO ELIMINATE SUCH

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WARFARE. WHO CAN SLEEP AT NIGHT HAVING SEEN THAT PICTURE OF A MOTHER COVERING WITH HER OWN BODY THE BODY OF HER CHILD TRYING TO PROTECT THAT CHILD FROM THE HORROR OF INVISIBLE, INSIDIOUS DEATH.

ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, I WENT TO GENEVA IN 1984 TO PUT DOWN THERE A DRAFT TREATY BEFORE THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT TO BAN ALL CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS. I AM WELL AWARE THAT THERE ARE DIFFICULT VERIFICATION PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH BANNING THESE WEAPONS, BUT THIS MUST NOT DETER US FROM SEEKING AN END TO THAT MONSTROUS KIND OF WARFARE.

THE UNITED STATES WAS THE FIRST NATION PUBLICLY TO CONDEMN THE USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN THE WAR AS A BLATANT VIOLATION OF THE GENEVA PROTOCOLS. WE FULLY SUPPORT SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 612, WHICH DEMANDS AN IMMEDIATE END TO CHEMICAL WARFARE BY BOTH PARTIES. NO COUNTRY SHOULD THINK IT CAN USE CHEMICAL WEAPONS WITH IMPUNITY.

MR. PRESIDENT, WE HERE IN THE COUNCIL HAVE A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP BRING THIS WAR TO AN END. ALMOST A YEAR AGO, ON JULY 20, 1987, THIS COUNCIL RESPONDED TO THE HOPES OF THE WORLD WITH THE UNANIMOUS ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 598. THE UNITED STATES PLAYED A LEADING ROLE IN THE ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION. ITS PROVISIONS ARE FAMILIAR. IT PROVIDES A COMPREHENSIVE FRAMEWORK FOR AN IMMEDIATE END TO THE WAR.

RESOLUTION 598 HAD A UNIQUE, MANDATORY CHARACTER. IN ADOPTING RESOLUTION 598, THE MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL KNEW EXACTLY WHAT THEY WERE DOING IN ORDERING
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AN IMMEDIATE END TO THE CONFLICT WITHOUT THE AGREEMENT OF EITHER PARTY.

ALMOST A YEAR HAS PASSED, AND THE BLOODSHED CONTINUES UNCHECKED. THE TIME HAS COME FOR ACTION TO BRING THIS WAR TO AN END.

I CALL TODAY ON BOTH SIDES TO ACCEPT AN IMMEDIATE AND COMPREHENSIVE PERMANENT CEASEFIRE -- ON LAND, ON SEA AND IN THE AIR. LET THAT BE THE FIRST STEP IN THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 598, LEADING DIRECTLY TO PROMPT WITHDRAWAL TO INTERNATIONAL BORDERS, RETURN OF ALL PRISONERS OF WAR, AND ESTABLISHMENT OF AN IMPARTIAL BODY TO LOOK INTO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONFLICT. LET THAT STOP THE BLOODSHED. LET THAT PAVE THE WAY FOR AN ENDURING

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PEACEFUL RESOLUTION.

I HAD THE PRIVILEGE THIS MORNING OF MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO COMMEND HIS TIRELESS EFFORTS TO END THE WAR AND TO PROMISE OUR STRONG SUPPORT FOR HIS MEDIATION EFFORTS. I URGE THE MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL -- AND PARTICULARLY THE PERMANENT MEMBERS --

TO DO LIKEWISE, AND TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THEY WILL NOT SUPPORT EFFORTS TO DELAY THE IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 598 IN ALL OF ITS PROVISIONS.

MR. PRESIDENT, WE MUST NOT LOSE SIGHT OF ONE BASIC FACT: IRAQ HAS DECLARED ITS READINESS TO COMPLY WITH RESOLUTION 598 AS A BASIS FOR A SETTLEMENT, AND IRAN REGRETTABLY HAS NOT. INSTEAD OF EXPRESSING WILLINGNESS TO COMPLY WITH THE RESOLUTION, AND
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NEGOTIATING ITS IMPLEMENTATION IN GOOD FAITH, IRAN HAS PLAYED FOR TIME AND MANEUVERED FOR DIPLOMATIC ADVANTAGE -- AND THE IRANIAN PEOPLE HAVE PAID A HEAVY PRICE.

WE RESPECT IRAN'S RIGHT TO AIR ITS GRIEVANCES. BUT IRAN CANNOT HAVE IT BOTH WAYS. IRAN CANNOT SIMULTANEOUSLY COMPLAIN TO THIS BODY AND YET DEFY IT.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN HAS REFUSED TO SAY PLAINLY AND CLEARLY THAT IT WILL COMPLY WITH THE MANDATORY DECISION OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL. IRAN MUST NOT BE PERMITTED TO CHOOSE THOSE PROVISIONS OF RESOLUTION 598 THAT IT LIKES AND IGNORE THE OTHERS. NOR CAN IRAQ BE PERMITTED TO REST ON VERBAL ADHERENCE TO RESOLUTION 598, WHILE AVOIDING COOPERATION WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL IN FINDING PRACTICAL WAYS TO IMPLEMENT THE RESOLUTION.

FIRST, AN ASIDE: I HAD FORGOTTEN THIS, HAVING BEEN GONE FROM THE UNITED NATIONS FOR A LONG TIME, I CAN'T HELP BUT NOTICE HOW OFTEN IRAN QUOTED U.S. NEWSPAPERS. PERHAPS COMING FROM A COUNTRY NOT BLESSED WITH A VIGOROUS COMPETITIVE FREE PRESS AND FREE POLITICAL SYSTEM, THE IRANIANS DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT YOU CAN FIND COLUMNS OR COMMENTS TO SUPPORT ANY POINT OF VIEW YOU WANT IN THIS COUNTRY.

AS FOR THE IMMEDIATE MATTER AT HAND -- THE UNFORTUNATE DESTRUCTION OF IRANAIR 655 -- MANY OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES DO REMAIN UNCLEAR. OUR OWN MILITARY INVESTIGATION IS UNDER WAY. WE WILL ALSO COOPERATE WITH ANY INVESTIGATION THAT IS CONDUCTED BY THE

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INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION, AND WE
TRUST THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN WILL DO THE SAME.
WE WANT ALL THE RELEVANT FACTS TO BE BROUGHT TO LIGHT
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AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND, FOR THOSE FAMILIAR WITH
OUR SYSTEM, YOU KNOW THAT THEY WILL BE BROUGHT TO
LIGHT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

ONE THING IS CLEAR: THE U.S.S. VINCENNES ACTED IN
SELF-DEFENSE.

THIS TRAGIC ACCIDENT OCCURRED AGAINST A BACKDROP OF
REPEATED, UNJUSTIFIED, UNPROVOKED, AND UNLAWFUL
IRANIAN ATTACKS AGAINST U.S. MERCHANT SHIPPING AND
ARMED FORCES, BEGINNING WITH THE MINE ATTACK ON THE
USS BRIDGETON IN JULY OF 1987. IT OCCURRED IN THE
MIDST OF A NAVAL ATTACK INITIATED BY IRANIAN VESSELS
AGAINST A NEUTRAL VESSEL AND, SUBSEQUENTLY, AGAINST
THE VINCENNES WHEN SHE CAME TO THE AID OF THE INNOCENT
SHIP IN DISTRESS.

DESPITE THESE HOSTILITIES, IRANIAN AUTHORITIES FAILED
TO DIVERT IRANAIR 655 FROM THIS COMBAT AREA. THEY
ALLOWED A CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT LOADED WITH PASSENGERS TO
PROCEED ON A PATH OVER A WARSHIP ENGAGED IN ACTIVE
BATTLE. THAT WAS IRRESPONSIBLE AND A TRAGIC ERROR.

THERE ARE THREE WAYS FOR IRAN TO AVOID FUTURE
TRAGEDIES: KEEP AIRLINERS AWAY FROM COMBAT OR BETTER
STILL STOP ATTACKING INNOCENT SHIPS OR BETTER STILL
THE BEST WAY IS PEACE. THE SECURITY COUNCIL OFFERS
THE BEST HOPE OF PEACE RIGHT NOW.

THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO CAPTAIN WILL ROGERS, THE
CAPTAIN OF THE VINCENNES, INDICATED THAT AN IRANIAN
MILITARY AIRCRAFT WAS APPROACHING HIS SHIP WITH
HOSTILE INTENTIONS. AFTER SEVEN -- I WANT THE COUNCIL
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TO BE SURE TO UNDERSTAND THIS -- SEVEN UNANSWERED
WARNINGS, THE CAPTAIN DID WHAT HE HAD TO DO TO PROTECT
HIS SHIP AND THE LIVES OF HIS CREW. AS A MILITARY
COMMANDER, HIS FIRST DUTY AND RESPONSIBILITY IS TO
PROTECT HIS MEN AND HIS SHIP, AND HE DID SO.

THE WILD ALLEGATIONS BY THE IRAN SIDE THAT THE ATTACK
ON THIS AIRLINER WAS PREMEDITATED IS OFFENSIVE AND IT
IS ABSURD. THE UNITED STATES HAS NEVER WILLFULLY

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ACTED TO ENDANGER INNOCENT CIVILIANS, NOR WILL IT EVER. CONTRAST THIS IF YOU WILL WITH THE WILLFUL DETENTION OF INHUMAN CONDITIONS OF AMERICANS AND OTHERS HELD HOSTAGE AGAINST THEIR WILL. ONE COURSE IS CIVILIZED AND THE OTHER BARBARIC.

I CAN ALSO ASSURE YOU THAT THE UNITED STATES WON'T RISK PURPOSELY ENDANGERING INNOCENT CIVILIANS AS THE CHARGE LEVELED HERE TODAY, BUT I CAN ALSO SAY THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL NEVER PUT ITS MILITARY IN A DANGEROUS SITUATION AND DENY THEM THE RIGHT TO DEFEND.

MR. PRESIDENT, WE ARE ALL ACCUSTOMED BY NOW TO HEARING IRRESPONSIBLE CHARGES FROM THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT. THERE HAVE BEEN MANY PARTICULARLY EGREGIOUS STATEMENTS CONCERNING THIS INCIDENT. IF IRAN WANTS TO THROW 14 YEAR OLD KIDS INTO BATTLE IN A BLOODY WAR, THAT'S THEIR BUSINESS. IF THEY ATTACK INNOCENT SHIPPING AND PLACE MINES IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS, THAT'S THE BUSINESS OF ALL WHO VALUE FREEDOM, BUT THE ANSWER I KEEP COMING BACK TO IS: IT IS THE BUSINESS OF THIS COUNCIL -- IT IS PEACE.

I WILL NOT DIGNIFY WITH A RESPONSE THE CHARGE THAT WE DELIBERATELY DESTROYED IRANAIR 655. I HONESTLY FEEL THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF IRAN KNOWS BETTER. HE KNOWS THAT THIS TRAGEDY WAS AN ACCIDENT. HE ALSO
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KNOWS THAT BY ALLOWING A CIVILIAN AIRLINER TO FLY INTO THE AREA OF AN ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN IRANIAN WARSHIPS AND U.S. FORCES IN THE GULF, IRAN, TOO, MUST BEAR A SUBSTANTIAL MEASURE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT HAS HAPPENED.

I CALL ON IRAN TODAY TO REROUTE CIVILIAN AIR TRAFFIC AWAY FROM AREAS OF ACTIVE HOSTILITIES. YESTERDAY, THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE AT THE ICAO MEETING ADVOCATED AN INVESTIGATION BY THE ICAO INTO THE IRANAIR INCIDENT AND IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION OF APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF CIVIL AVIATION IN THE GULF.

MR. PRESIDENT, THE TERRIBLE DISASTER OF IRANAIR 655 FILLS OUR HEARTS WITH SORROW -- AMERICAN HEARTS, HEARTS OF THE 14 COUNTRIES AROUND THIS TABLE. I AM SITTING NEXT TO THE DISTINGUISHED REPRESENTATIVE FROM YUGOSLAVIA -- SIX OF WHOSE COUNTRYMEN WERE KILLED IN THIS. OF COURSE, WE FEEL BADLY ABOUT IT; OF COURSE, WE HAVE COMPASSION; OF COURSE WE CARE.

OUR REACTION TO THIS TRAGEDY TRANSCENDS POLITICAL DIFFERENCES AND BOUNDARIES. AS AMERICANS, WE SHARE

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YOU CAN'T BE AN AMERICAN IF YOU DON'T -- THE GRIEF OF THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS, WHATEVER THEIR NATIONALITIES. THAT INCLUDES THE INNOCENT CITIZENS FROM THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC.

IT IS THAT STRONGLY FELT SENSE OF COMMON HUMANITY THAT HAS LED OUR GOVERNMENT TO DECIDE THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL PROVIDE VOLUNTARY, EX GRATIA COMPENSATION TO THE FAMILIES OF THOSE WHO DIED IN THAT CRASH. THIS IS PROMPT REACTION FROM A PRESIDENT AND A COUNTRY THAT
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FEELS SOMETHING DEEPLY, FEELS THE COMPASSION FOR THOSE THAT INNOCENTLY LOST THEIR LIVES.

WE MAKE THIS OFFER STRICTLY AS A HUMANITARIAN GESTURE -- NOT AS A MATTER OF LEGAL OBLIGATION BUT OUT OF A SENSE OF MORAL COMPASSION, REFLECTING THE VALUE THAT WE, SIR, PLACE ON HUMAN LIFE. WE HOPE THAT COMPENSATION WILL EASE THE PAIN A LITTLE OF THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED A LOSS, EVEN AS WE RECOGNIZE THAT NOTHING WE CAN DO OR SAY CAN EVER BRING BACK THE LOVED ONES TO THE FAMILIES.

IN THE CASE OF IRANIAN VICTIMS, WE WILL TAKE APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT THE MONEY FLOWS DIRECTLY TO THE FAMILIES AND NOT THE GOVERNMENT: WE WILL PROVIDE NONE OF THESE FUNDS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN. INDEED, WE WILL PROVIDE NO COMPENSATION UNTIL MECHANISMS ARE IN PLACE TO ENSURE THAT THE MONEY GOES WHERE IT SHOULD -- TO THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS.

MR. PRESIDENT, THE TIME HAS COME, INDEED THE TIME IS LONG PAST, FOR US TO REDEDICATE OURSELVES TO THE CAUSE OF PEACE. THE IRANAIR TRAGEDY SHOULD REINFORCE OUR DETERMINATION TO ACT. IT SHOULD REMIND THOSE WHO WOULD PREFER TO IGNORE THE HUMAN COST OF THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR AND THE THREAT IT POSES TO THE SECURITY OF THE PERSIAN GULF -- THOSE WHO FIND REASONS TO DELAY RATHER THAN REASONS TO ACT FOR PEACE -- THAT THEIR COMPLACENCY CARRIES A HEAVY PRICE.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HAS ONE OVERARCHING GOAL IN THE PERSIAN GULF. THAT GOAL IS PEACE. PEACE MEANS CESSATION OF THE KILLING. PEACE MEANS A DEFINITIVE END TO THE WAR. PEACE MEANS TOTAL FREEDOM OF PASSAGE THROUGH THE STRAITS -- TOTAL FREEDOM OF SHIPS TO SAIL
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WITHOUT RISK IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS. PEACE ALSO MEANS NATIONS LIVING WITHOUT THE FEAR OF THREATS OR INTIMIDATIONS FROM THEIR NEIGHBORS.

TO THIS END, WE WILL CONTINUE TO DEFEND OUR INTERESTS AND SUPPORT OUR FRIENDS, WHILE REMAINING STEADFASTLY NEUTRAL IN THE WAR. AS LONG AS THIS CONFLICT CONTINUES, WE AND OTHER WESTERN NATIONS WILL WORK TO CONTAIN THE THREAT TO FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION AND PEACEFUL COMMERCE IN A WATERWAY THAT IS VITAL TO THE ECONOMIES OF THE WORLD. OUR NAVAL PRESENCE IS WELCOMED BY PEACEFUL NATIONS. IT IS A THREAT TO NO ONE. BUT WE WILL RESPOND FIRMLY IF WE ARE THREATENED.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 598 WOULD ENABLE THE UNITED STATES TO RETURN TO THE MODEST NAVAL PRESENCE IN THE GULF THAT WE HAVE MAINTAINED FOR MORE THAN 40 YEARS, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE GULF STATES. WE LOOK FORWARD TO THAT DAY.

BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE: UNTIL THAT DAY, WE WILL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO MAINTAIN FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION IN THIS VITAL AREA OF THE WORLD, AND TO TAKE WHATEVER ACTIONS WE MUST TO PROTECT OUR FORCES THERE. WE WILL NOT LET DOWN OUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES. WE WILL NOT BE INTIMIDATED BY RECKLESS ATTACKS OR TERROR. OUR COMMITMENT TO FREEDOM AND PEACE DEMANDS THIS AND NOTHING LESS FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END TEXT.

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APPROVED BY: S/S- JCARR

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INFO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

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FOLLOWING MONTREAL 02550 RPTED FOR YOUR INFO SENT ACTION
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E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, ICAO, IR

SUBJECT: DESTRUCTION OF IR 655

1. THE TEXT BELOW IS THE STATEMENT, AS DELIVERED BY
RICHARD S. WILLIAMSON, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS, BEFORE THE
EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL
CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION (ICAO), IN MONTREAL ON
JULY 13, 1988.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

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MR. PRESIDENT, I APPRECIATE HAVING THIS OPPORTUNITY
TO MAKE A STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA REGARDING IRAN AIR
FLIGHT 655 AND THE TRAGIC INCIDENT ON JULY 3, 1988.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE INCIDENT, THE PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES EXPRESSED OUR DEEP REGRET OVER THE
LOSS OF LIFE IN THIS TRAGEDY. PRESIDENT REAGAN'S
SPOKESMAN ALSO HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE UNITED STATES

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IS PREPARED TO PROVIDE COMPENSATION TO THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS, OF ALL NATIONALITIES, WHO DIED IN THIS ACCIDENT. THESE PAYMENTS WILL BE SUBJECT TO NORMAL UNITED STATES LEGAL REQUIREMENTS AND CONSULTATIONS WITH THE CONGRESS. THIS COMPENSATION WILL BE OFFERED ON AN EX GRATIA, OR VOLUNTARY BASIS, AND NOT ON THE BASIS OF ANY LEGAL LIABILITY OR OBLIGATION. WE SIMPLY BELIEVE IT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO IN THESE TRAGIC CIRCUMSTANCES.

AS MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL KNOW, THE UNITED STATES INITIATED ITS OWN FORMAL INVESTIGATION IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE INCIDENT ON JULY 3. THIS INVESTIGATION WILL BE THOROUGH. THERE ARE MANY IMPORTANT OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS. WE INTEND TO SHARE WITH ICAO AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE, CONSISTENT WITH THE PURPOSES OF ANY ICAO INVESTIGATION AND THE NEED TO SAFEGUARD INFORMATION RELATING TO SENSITIVE MILITARY MATTERS. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THIS ORGANIZATION INSTITUTE MEASURES TO PREVENT SIMILAR INCIDENTS IN THE FUTURE. WE WANT TO TAKE STEPS TOWARD IMPROVEMENTS THAT WILL BENEFIT CIVIL AVIATION IN THE PERSIAN GULF. WE PLEDGE OUR COOPERATION TO THE COUNCIL AND TO THE FULL ICAO MEMBERSHIP.

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IN MY STATEMENT TODAY, I INTEND TO ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING:

FIRST, I WILL DISCUSS THE GENERAL BACKGROUND TO THE INCIDENT, INCLUDING COMMENT ON THE CONTINUING CONFLICT IN THE PERSIAN GULF;

SECOND, I WILL DESCRIBE THE SPECIFIC SITUATION CONFRONTING THE CAPTAIN OF THE UNITED STATES SHIP VINCENNES ON JULY 3, 1988, AS THE FACTS ARE KNOWN TO US AT THIS TIME; AND

THIRD, I WILL DISCUSS POSSIBLE STEPS THAT THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION MIGHT CONSIDER IN ORDER TO AVOID FUTURE INCIDENTS SUCH AS THE ONE WE ADDRESS TODAY. MY GOVERNMENT WANTS TO WORK WITH ICAO ON MATTERS THAT CAN BE TAKEN, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, TO INCREASE THE SAFETY OF INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION IN THE PERSIAN GULF, A FUNDAMENTAL GOAL OF THIS ORGANIZATION AND CERTAINLY OF THE UNITED STATES. WE HOPE THIS EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE COUNCIL WILL INITIATE WORK TO THAT END.

GENERAL BACKGROUND ON THE SITUATION

LET ME BEGIN, MR. PRESIDENT, BY REVIEWING THE

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SITUATION, THAT EXISTED IN THE PERSIAN GULF ON JULY 3 WHEN THE INCIDENT INVOLVING IRAN AIR 655 OCCURRED.

THIS TRAGEDY OCCURRED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CONTINUING WAR BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ. NOT ONLY HAS THIS WAR CAUSED INCALCULABLE DAMAGE TO IRAN AND IRAQ, BUT MANY NEUTRAL NATIONS AND INNOCENT PEOPLE HAVE SUFFERED AS WELL. THE CONFLICT HAS BEEN A THREAT TO THE STABILITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF NATIONS IN THE GULF WHOSE SECURITY HAS LONG BEEN OF CONCERN TO THE UNITED STATES.

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TED STATES.

THE ACCIDENT CANNOT BE CONSIDERED IN ISOLATION. THE WAR HAS GONE ON FOR ALMOST EIGHT YEARS, DESPITE THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL'S MANDATORY CALL, IN RESOLUTION 598, FOR AN IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE AND FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FORCES TO INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED BOUNDARIES. IF IRAN HAD HEEDED THE DECISION OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL, THE INCIDENT INVOLVING IRAN AIR 655 WOULD NOT HAVE OCCURRED.

IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT THE U.S. NAVAL PRESENCE IN THE GULF IS AT FAULT IN THIS INCIDENT. MY GOVERNMENT REJECTS THAT CONTENTION. WE ARE IN THE GULF TO PRESERVE PEACE. OUR NAVAL PRESENCE, IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS, HAS BEEN UPGRADED IN ORDER TO CONTAIN THE EFFECT OF THE IRAN-IRAQ CONFLICT, TO ASSIST THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION, AND TO PROTECT U.S. FLAG SHIPPING. AS TENSIONS IN THE GULF DIMINISH, AND WE HOPE THEY DO, OUR PRESENCE, AND NO DOUBT THE PRESENCE OF OTHER WESTERN NAVIES, WILL BE REDUCED TO MORE TRADITIONAL LEVELS.

IN THE MEANTIME, MR. PRESIDENT, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE SAFETY OF NEUTRAL SHIPPING AND AIR TRAFFIC IS A MAJOR VICTIM OF THE WAR. INNOCENT SHIPS HAVE BEEN ATTACKED, AND INNOCENT CIVIL AIRLINERS HAVE HAD TO ALTER THEIR COURSES IN ORDER TO AVOID INADVERTENT CONFRONTATIONS IN AN AREA OF POTENTIAL HOSTILITIES.

MR. PRESIDENT, THE INCIDENT ON JULY 3 WAS, IN FACT, AN ACCIDENT. BUT, IT WAS AN ACCIDENT THAT WAS

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DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE UNRESOLVED IRAN-IRAQ CONFLICT. INDEED, IN SEPTEMBER 1987, A GENERAL

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WARNING -- A NOTICE TO AIRMEN, OR NOTAM -- WAS ISSUED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT REGARDING FLIGHTS WITHIN THE PERSIAN GULF AREA, SPECIFICALLY EMPHASIZING THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE AND THE METHOD OF AIRCRAFT IDENTIFICATION. IN NOVEMBER 1987, YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, WROTE TO THE AUTHORITIES OF STATES IN THE PERSIAN GULF TO BRING TO THEIR ATTENTION THE "HAZARDOUS SITUATION FOR AIRCRAFT OPERATING IN THAT AREA."

IN ADDITION, UNITED STATES NAVAL VESSELS HAVE ISSUED WARNINGS TO CIVIL AIRCRAFT ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS TO ALTER THEIR COURSES IN ORDER TO AVOID INADVERTENT CONFRONTATIONS. MY GOVERNMENT APPRECIATES THAT THERE ARE CONCERNS AND SENSITIVITIES RELATING TO MILITARY WARNINGS TO CIVIL AIRCRAFT. BUT, THESE WARNINGS HAVE BEEN ISSUED ONLY BECAUSE OF THE CONCERN OF THE UNITED STATES ABOUT THE SAFETY OF CIVIL AVIATION. I MUST ADD THAT NOT ALL CIVIL AIRCRAFT HAVE HEEDED THESE WARNINGS. IN PARTICULAR, IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT SOME IRANIAN AIRCRAFT HAVE CONTINUED TO FLY INTO AND OVER HOSTILE ZONES DESPITE REPEATED WARNINGS.

SPECIFIC SITUATION CONFRONTING THE VINCENNES

THIS WAS THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE PERTAINING IN THE GULF AT THE TIME OF THIS INCIDENT ON JULY 3. BUT, LET US LOOK MORE CLOSELY AT THE SPECIFIC SITUATION.

MR. PRESIDENT, I INVITE EACH MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES FACING THE CAPTAIN OF THE U.S. SHIP VINCENNES, BASED ON THE KNOWLEDGE THAT
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WE HAVE NOW. THE SHIP WAS, AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT, IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS, OUTSIDE THE ZONE OF EXCLUSION DECLARED BY IRAN. U.S. FORCES WERE ON HEIGHTENED ALERT BECAUSE OF REPORTS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF IRAN ATTACK AGAINST U.S. SHIPS ON THE UNITED STATES INDEPENDENCE DAY, THE FOURTH OF JULY. ON THE AFTERNOON PRECEDING THE INCIDENT, IRAN F-14'S APPROACHED ANOTHER U.S. CRUISER AND WERE WARNED AWAY AFTER CLOSING TO WITHIN A FEW MILES OF THIS SHIP. ONLY A FEW HOURS LATER ON JULY 2, A DANISH SHIP WAS ATTACKED BY IRANIAN GUNBOATS AND REQUESTED ASSISTANCE FROM U.S. FORCES. AT ABOUT 7:20 A.M. ON JULY 3, A PAKISTANI SHIP ISSUED A DISTRESS CALL, AGAIN DUE TO ATTACKS BY IRANIAN BOATS. LATER A LIBERIAN SHIP ALSO WAS THREATENED. AT ABOUT 9:25 A.M. LOCAL TIME ON JULY 3, THE VINCENNES HAD SENT

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HER HELICOPTER ON PATROL TO INVESTIGATE REPORTS THAT IRANIAN BOATS WERE CLOSELY FOLLOWING A VESSEL OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY. THAT HELICOPTER WAS FIRED UPON, AND IT RETURNED TO THE VINCENNES.

A THREATENING TREND WAS CLEARLY DEVELOPING. IRANIAN FIGHTERS HAD PRESSED TO WITHIN ONLY A FEW MILES OF A NAVY CRUISER, FOUR NEUTRAL SHIPS HAD EITHER BEEN ATTACKED OR THREATENED AND THE VINCENNES' OWN HELICOPTER HAD BEEN SHOT AT BY IRANIAN GUNBOATS.

AS THE VINCENNES AND ANOTHER U.S. NAVAL VESSEL THEN APPROACHED THE GROUP OF IRANIAN BOATS THAT HAD FIRED UPON THE U.S. HELICOPTER, AT LEAST FOUR OF THE BOATS TURNED TOWARD THE U.S. SHIPS WITH OBVIOUS HOSTILE INTENTIONS. BOTH U.S. SHIPS BEGAN TO EXCHANGE FIRE WITH THE GUNBOATS, SINKING TWO OF THE IRANIAN BOATS
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AND DAMAGING A THIRD. THIS FIGHTING BETWEEN U.S. AND IRANIAN VESSELS TOOK PLACE BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER THE INCIDENT INVOLVING IRAN AIR 655.

MR. PRESIDENT, WITH THE VINCENNES ALREADY INVOLVED IN THIS EXCHANGE OF FIRE WITH ATTACKING SURFACE VESSELS, THE RADAR ON THE VINCENNES SUDDENLY SHOWED A PLANE IN THE VICINITY OF THE JOINT MILITARY-CIVILIAN AIRFIELD AT BANDAR-ABBAS AND HEADING DIRECTLY FOR THE VINCENNES. LET ME ADD THAT IRANIAN F-14 FIGHTERS ARE KNOWN TO BE BASED AT BANDAR-ABBAS, WHICH WAS THE SITE OF DEPARTURE FOR IRAN AIR 655. DESPITE REPEATED EFFORTS, REPEATED EFFORTS, BY THE VINCENNES TO ESTABLISH CONTACTS WITH THE UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT, THE PLANE DID NOT RESPOND TO THE VOICE TRANSMISSIONS ON INTERNATIONAL AIR DISTRESS AND MILITARY AIR DISTRESS FREQUENCIES. AN ELECTRONIC IFF INTERROGATION FROM THE VINCENNES INDICATED BOTH A MODE II AND A MODE III IFF RESPONSE. MODE II NORMALLY IS ASSOCIATED WITH MILITARY AIRCRAFT, AND THIS PARTICULAR MODE II RESPONSE HISTORICALLY HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH F-14S FLOWN BY IRAN IN THE GULF. IT MUST BE NOTED AS WELL THAT MILITARY AIRCRAFT ALSO ARE CAPABLE OF RESPONDING WITH MODE III.

I THINK FAIR-MINDED COUNCIL MEMBERS WILL AGREE THAT IT WAS REASONABLE IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES FOR THE CAPTAIN OF THE VINCENNES TO BELIEVE THAT HE MIGHT SOON COME UNDER ATTACK BY AN IRANIAN MILITARY AIRCRAFT SENT TO ASSIST THE IRANIAN BOATS THAT WERE INVOLVED AT THE TIME IN AN EXCHANGE OF FIRE WITH THE VINCENNES. THE PLANE WAS NOT FAR AWAY GIVEN THE

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SPEED CAPABILITIES OF MODERN AIRCRAFT. TIME WAS SHORT. INDEED, THE CAPTAIN HAD ONLY A FEW BRIEF MINUTES FROM THE TIME THE AIRCRAFT WAS SPOTTED UNTIL

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IT COULD BE EXPECTED TO BE DIRECTLY OVER THE VINCENNES.

NONETHELESS, THE CAPTAIN AVOIDED IMMEDIATE AIR DEFENSIVE ACTION EVEN THOUGH THE SURFACE GUN BATTLE CONTINUED. AT SOME RISK TO HIS SHIP, IN THE EXTREMELY LIMITED TIME AVAILABLE, HE SOUGHT TO CONFIRM THE IDENTITY OF THE PLANE WHICH WAS OBSERVED TO ALTER A NORMAL CLIMB AND BEGAN DESCENDING WHILE HEADING RAPIDLY TOWARD HIM. REPEATEDLY, HE ASKED THE PLANE TO IDENTIFY ITSELF AND TURN AWAY. REPEATEDLY, EACH TIME HE WAS MET WITH SILENCE, ONLY TO HAVE RADAR SHOW THE PLANE MOVING EVER CLOSER. ULTIMATELY, AS THE RISK OF IMMINENT DANGER REACHED AN EXTREME POINT AND WHILE STILL UNDER ATTACK BY IRANIAN GUNBOATS, THE CAPTAIN FELT COMPELLED TO TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT HIS MEN AND HIS VESSEL FROM WHAT THEN APPEARED TO BE AN AIR ATTACK IN SUPPORT OF THE IRANIAN SURFACE COMBATANTS. FROM THE TIME THE CAPTAIN FIRST CONSIDERED THE APPROACHING AIRCRAFT TO BE HOSTILE, HE HAD ONLY 240 SECONDS, 4 MINUTES, TO RECONCILE THE MENACING TREND THE IRANIANS HAD EXHIBITED OVER THE PAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS. HE WAITED UNTIL THE VERY LAST MINUTE TO DEFEND HIS SHIP FROM AN AIR ATTACK.

GIVEN THE OVERALL TENSION OF THE SITUATION, THE HISTORY OF ATTACKS ON UNITED STATES FLAG VESSELS, AND THE IMMEDIATE SITUATION OF COMBAT CONFRONTING THE CAPTAIN OF THE VINCENNES, IT IS NOT DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE HOW THE SCENARIO DEVELOPED. NOR IS IT REASONABLE TO BELIEVE THAT THERE IS A SINGLE FOCUS OF RESPONSIBILITY.

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THOSE IN THIS COUNCIL WHO DEAL WITH THE TECHNOLOGY OF AVIATION KNOW THAT THERE HAVE BEEN GREAT TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES IN THIS FIELD. BUT, WE ALSO KNOW THAT TECHNOLOGY HAS ITS LIMITATIONS. RADAR TODAY CAN PERFORM SERVICES ONLY VAGUELY DREAMED ABOUT A FEW SHORT YEARS AGO. BUT, OFTEN IT CANNOT IDENTIFY THE SIZE, TYPE OR MISSION OF AN AIRCRAFT. IT CANNOT DIVINE THE INTENTIONS OF A PILOT WHO DOES

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NOT IDENTIFY HIMSELF AND DOES NOT IDENTIFY HIS PURPOSE, AS HE FLIES DIRECTLY INTO A SCENE OF HOSTILITIES.

MR. PRESIDENT, IN THE END, THE CAPTAIN OF A SHIP MUST MAKE A JUDGMENT ON THE BASIS OF THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO HIM. IT IS HIS SOLEMN RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT THE MEN UNDER HIS COMMAND. THAT IS WHAT HAPPENED IN THE CASE OF IRAN AIR 655. IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THE ENTIRE CONTEXT OF EVENTS DURING THAT TWENTY-FOUR-HOUR PERIOD ON JULY 2 AND 3. EVERYONE HAS THE DEEPEST REGRET FOR THE TRAGIC LOSS OF THE LIVES ON BOARD IRAN AIR 655. BUT, FAIR-MINDED PEOPLE MUST RECOGNIZE THE DIFFICULT OPTIONS PUT BEFORE A CAPTAIN WHO HAD TO MAKE THIS CRITICAL DECISION IN A VERY SHORT PERIOD AND WHILE UNDER CONTINUING ATTACK BY SURFACE VESSELS.

AT THE SAME TIME, I THINK WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT IRANIAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES MUST HAVE KNOWN THERE WAS A CONFLICT IN THE WATERS OF THE GULF. IF THEY DID NOT, THEY SHOULD HAVE KNOWN, AND THEY SHOULD HAVE TAKEN STEPS TO PREVENT THE PLANE FROM FLYING INTO AN AREA WHERE FIGHTING WAS IN PROGRESS. INDEED, IRANIAN VESSELS WERE ATTACKING UNITED STATES NAVAL VESSELS AT THE VERY MOMENT THAT IRAN AIR 655 TOOK OFF FROM BANDAR-ABBAS. THE PLANE HEADED
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STRAIGHT FOR THE SCENE OF THE CONFLICT AND FAILED TO HEED, OR EVEN ANSWER, THE REPEATED WARNINGS AND REQUESTS FOR IDENTIFICATION. SOME DEGREE OF RESPONSIBILITY MUST BE TAKEN BY IRAN FOR PUTTING ITS AIRCRAFT IN THIS VERY VULNERABLE POSITION. THE INNOCENT VICTIMS ON IRAN AIR 655 ARE JUST THE LATEST AMONG THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF CASUALTIES IN A NEEDLESS WAR WHICH SHOULD HAVE ENDED LONG AGO.

LOOKING AHEAD

NEVERTHELESS, MR. PRESIDENT, THE IMPORTANT QUESTION IS WHERE WE GO FROM HERE. WE CAN AND MUST AGREE TO TAKE ALL APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT SUCH TRAGEDIES DO NOT OCCUR.

FIRST OF ALL, MR. PRESIDENT, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THE COUNCIL TO ASK THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION SECRETARY GENERAL TO CONDUCT A FACT-FINDING INVESTIGATION ON THE INCIDENT OF JULY 3, WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF IDENTIFYING POSSIBLE MEASURES FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION IN THE GULF, AND TO REPORT BACK TO THIS

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COUNCIL. THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO COOPERATE IN ALL APPROPRIATE RESPECTS WITH AN ICAO INVESTIGATION, AND IS CONVINCED THAT, AS A RESULT OF THE REVIEW BY THIS COUNCIL, THE DIFFICULTY OF THE COMPLEX SITUATION IN THE GULF WILL BE UNDERSTOOD BETTER, AND APPROPRIATE PROCEDURES TO PROMOTE CIVIL AVIATION SAFETY IN THAT REGION CAN BE IMPLEMENTED. ONLY A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION CAN HELP RESOLVE THE MANY QUESTIONS AND ANOMALIES SURROUNDING THE INCIDENT ON JULY 3.

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MY GOVERNMENT TRUSTS THAT ALL THE CONCERNED GOVERNMENTS WILL GIVE THIS INVESTIGATION THEIR FULL SUPPORT. IN PARTICULAR, MR. PRESIDENT, WE URGE THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN TO COOPERATE FULLY BY PROVIDING ICAO WITH THE FLIGHT DATA AND COCKPIT VOICE RECORDERS, AND ANY OTHER SPECIFIC INFORMATION WHICH CAN HELP DETERMINE THE ACTUAL FACTS OF THE SITUATION AND RESOLVE ANY ANOMALIES.

MR. PRESIDENT, LET ME AFFIRM MY OWN GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO COOPERATE WITH THE INVESTIGATION. WE ARE WORKING TO COMPLETE OUR OWN INVESTIGATION AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND WILL MAKE INFORMATION AVAILABLE, CONSISTENT WITH SAFEGUARDING THE RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS AND MILITARY SECURITY MATTERS.

SECOND, MY GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT THIS COUNCIL AND THIS ORGANIZATION MUST CONSIDER SOON WHETHER NEW STEPS CAN BE TAKEN WHICH WOULD HELP THE SITUATION RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION SAFETY IN THE PERSIAN GULF AREA. IT IS APPARENT THAT FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS ARE NEEDED IN INTERNATIONAL OPERATING PRACTICES, AND THAT OTHER STEPS CAN BE TAKEN WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION COMMUNITY WHICH CLARIFY EXISTING RULES OR PROCEDURES AND ENHANCE THEIR EFFECTIVENESS IN AVOIDING TRAGIC ACCIDENTS. MY GOVERNMENT STANDS READY TO ASSIST IN THIS PROCESS. MR. PRESIDENT, WE NEED NOT AWAIT THE RESULT OF ANY INVESTIGATION TO BEGIN CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE STEPS TO MAKE CIVIL AVIATION MORE SAFE AND MORE SECURE IN THE PERSIAN GULF AREA.

TO BE MORE SPECIFIC, LET ME LIST SOME EXAMPLES OF AREAS THAT MAY HAVE SOME IMMEDIATE PRACTICAL APPLICATION REGARDING CIVIL AVIATION IN THE PERSIAN

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GULF AREA:

- (1) CIVIL AIR ROUTES IN THE GULF MIGHT BE RESTRUCTURED, WHERE POSSIBLE, TO MINIMIZE CONTACT WITH AREAS OF MILITARY ACTIVITY.
- (2) ALTERNATE ROUTES MIGHT BE OPENED.
- (3) NEW MINIMUM ALTITUDES MIGHT BE SET FOR CIVIL AIRCRAFT OPERATING OVER WATER.
- (4) TRANSPONDER EQUIPMENT USED BY CIVIL AIRCRAFT MIGHT BE CONTROLLED MORE CAREFULLY TO ENSURE THAT THE IDENTITY OF AN AIRLINER IS UNAMBIGUOUS TO ALL MILITARY AND CIVIL AIR TRAFFIC SERVICE FACILITIES.
- (5) RADIO COMMUNICATIONS MIGHT BE IMPROVED TO ENSURE THAT WARNINGS TO AIRLINE PILOTS ARE COMMUNICATED, RECEIVED, AND GIVEN A PROMPT RESPONSE.

THESE ARE JUST SOME EXAMPLES OF STEPS THAT MIGHT BE FOLLOWED. OTHER IDEAS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY EMERGE AS WE DISCUSS THESE TOPICS, BOTH NOW AND AFTER AN INVESTIGATION. LET US KEEP OUR MINDS OPEN AND FOCUSED ON TAKING TRULY CONSTRUCTIVE STEPS THAT CAN SERVE TO PREVENT SIMILAR ACTIONS IN THE FUTURE. WHEN THE COUNCIL CONSIDERS THE REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL ABOUT IRAN AIR 655, IT MAY WISH TO INITIATE A REVIEW OF ICAO DOCUMENTS TO DETERMINE THE STATUS OF THEIR CURRENT IMPLEMENTATION AND THE NEED FOR POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS.

FINALLY, MR. PRESIDENT, LET ME MAKE CLEAR THAT THE
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RISK OF FUTURE TRAGEDIES SUCH AS THE DOWNING OF IRAN AIR 655 ON JULY 3 WILL REMAIN SO LONG AS THE SENSELESS AND TRAGIC WAR IN THE PERSIAN GULF CONTINUES. ALL OF US MUST COOPERATE IN THE UNITED NATIONS SO THAT THIS CONFLICT CAN BE BROUGHT TO AN END. THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN IS THE ONLY PARTY TO THE CONFLICT WHICH HAS REFUSED TO EXPRESS A WILLINGNESS TO COMPLY WITH THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL'S MANDATORY DECISION IN RESOLUTION 598. IN PARTICULAR, IRAN MUST BE URGED BY ALL RESPONSIBLE PARTIES TO SUMMON THE POLITICAL WILL TO END A CONFLICT WHICH HAS CLAIMED SO MANY INNOCENT VICTIMS.

CONCLUSION

MR. PRESIDENT, IN CLOSING, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT REMAINS COMMITTED TO THE SAFETY OF INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION. IN PARTICULAR, WE

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REAFFIRM OUR SUPPORT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION AND ITS FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVES OF PROMOTING THE SAFETY OF INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION AND ENSURING ITS ORDERLY GROWTH THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. OUR COOPERATION IN THIS INVESTIGATION WILL BE BUT FURTHER EVIDENCE OF OUR SUPPORT FOR THIS BODY.

MY GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN IN THE FOREFRONT OF LEADING AVIATION NATIONS IN PROPOSING MEASURES TO ENSURE SAFETY AND SECURITY IN CIVIL AVIATION, AND THAT COMMITMENT WILL CONTINUE. MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL NOW THAT THE UNITED STATES CALLS FOR AND EXPECTS A GREAT DEAL ON THE PART OF OTHER NATIONS REGARDING SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION AND WE WILL DO NO LESS THAN WE REQUEST OF OTHERS.

MR. PRESIDENT, THIS COUNCIL HAS A LONG HISTORY OF
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CAREFUL DELIBERATIONS AND OF FAIRNESS AND WISDOM IN ITS JUDGMENTS. MY GOVERNMENT TRUSTS THAT ITS MEMBERS, AS IN PAST INCIDENTS, WILL REACH ITS CONCLUSIONS ONLY AFTER ALL OF THE FACTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED. WE LOOK FORWARD TO JOINING WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL IN A SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS TO AVOID TRAGIC INCIDENTS SUCH AS THE ONE INVOLVING IRAN AIR 655. IN DOING SO, WE CAN, TOGETHER, REAFFIRM THE ROLE OF ICAO IN MAKING AIR TRAVEL SAFE FOR ALL OUR CITIZENS. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. STOHR
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FOLLOWING USUN NEW YORK 02149 14 JULY 88, SENT ACTION SECSTATE
 IS BEING REPEATED FOR UR INFO
 REF: USUN NEW YORK 02149
 QUOTE
 UNCLAS USUN NEW YORK 02149

DEPT PLEASE PASS ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS

E.O. 12356: N/A
 TAGS: PREL, UNSC, IR, US
 SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL: THE VICE PRESIDENT'S
 STATEMENT ON THE IRANAIR INCIDENT, JULY 14

1. THERE FOLLOWS THE TEXT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT'S
 STATEMENT IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL JULY 14 ON THE
 IRANAIR INCIDENT.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

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MR. PRESIDENT, THANK YOU FOR THE WARM WELCOME WHICH
 YOU EXTENDED TO ME AND FOR RECEIVING ME IN THE OFFICE
 OF THE PRESIDENT. I AM PLEASED THAT THE SECURITY
 COUNCIL IS PRESIDED OVER THIS MONTH BY A
 REPRESENTATIVE OF A COUNTRY WITH WHICH MY COUNTRY HAS
 VERY CORDIAL RELATIONS, AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT YOUR
 DIPLOMATIC SKILLS WILL ASSURE A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF
 THIS DEBATE. WITH YOUR INDULGENCE, MR. PRESIDENT, I
 WOULD LIKE TO SALUTE A FORMER COLLEAGUE OF MINE WITH

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WHOM I SERVED IN THE UNITED NATIONS MANY YEARS AGO. I AM SPEAKING OF COURSE OF THE FORMER AMBASSADOR AND NOW THE DISTINGUISHED SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THIS BODY, JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR. ALL OF US AROUND THIS TABLE HAVE GREAT RESPECT FOR HIS EFFORTS TO ENHANCE WORLD PEACE.

MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THIS DISTINGUISHED SECURITY COUNCIL: I HAVE COME HERE TODAY TO REPRESENT THE UNITED STATES, AT THE REQUEST OF PRESIDENT REAGAN, BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ISSUES AT STAKE -- NOT JUST THE TERRIBLE HUMAN TRAGEDY OF IRANAIR 655, BUT THE CONTINUING CONFLICT BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE IN THE PERSIAN GULF.

HAVING BEEN THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THIS BODY, I KNOW WHAT A GRAVE RESPONSIBILITY THIS COUNCIL BEARS AND THE GOOD IT CAN DO WHEN IT ACTS WITH REALISM AND WISDOM. WE ARE IN URGENT NEED OF REALISM AND WISDOM NOW. AFTER TWO YEARS OF REJECTING, DISREGARDING A SOLEMN RESOLUTION OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND AFTER TWO YEARS OR MORE OF BERATING THIS BODY, IRAN COMES NOW WITH RECKLESS INTEMPERATE CHARGES AGAINST MY

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COUNTRY; ON BALANCE I EXPECT IT IS GOOD THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER APPEARED HERE TODAY BECAUSE MAYBE THIS BODY CAN NOW BE THE CATALYST TO END THE BLOODSHED AND BRING THE PEACE.

MR. PRESIDENT, THE PERSIAN GULF IS A REGION OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES AND THE ECONOMY OF THE WORLD. AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN FORCES -- NOT JUST AMERICANS -- ARE IN THE GULF, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE STATES OF THE AREA, TO MEET A VITAL NEED -- TO HELP ENSURE THE UNIMPEDED FLOW OF OIL AND TO KEEP NEUTRAL COMMERCE MOVING IN THE FACE OF A VERY REAL THREAT TO INNOCENT SHIPPING. THIS IS OUR LEGAL RIGHT.

IRANIAN MINES, DELIBERATELY SOWN, HAVE DISRUPTED INNOCENT PASSAGE AND DAMAGED UNARMED MERCHANT VESSELS AND A U.S. NAVAL SHIP IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS. SMALLBOAT ATTACKS OF IRAN ON NON-BELLIGERENT MERCHANT SHIPS CONTINUE UNABATED. THESE ACTIONS ARE IN BLATANT VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS, AND THEY GIVE THE LIE TO THE ASSERTIONS THAT IRAN SUPPORTS FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION IN THE GULF.

WE HAVE INCREASED THE SIZE OF OUR FORCES FROM TRADITIONAL LEVELS TO PROTECT U.S. FLAG SHIPPING AND

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TO ASSIST OTHER NEUTRAL VESSELS UNDER UNLAWFUL ATTACK, WHEN THEY REQUEST ASSISTANCE. FIVE EUROPEAN NAVIES IN ADDITION TO OUR OWN -- A TOTAL OF SOME 43 SHIPS -- ARE NOW IN THE GULF TO COUNTER IRAN'S RECKLESS BEHAVIOR TOWARD NEUTRAL SHIPS ENGAGED IN LAWFUL COMMERCE. I AM PROUD OF OUR LEADERSHIP IN MEETING THIS CHALLENGE.

TOGETHER WE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE WILL KEEP THE PERSIAN GULF OPEN, NO MATTER WHAT THE THREAT. I AM HERE TO REAFFIRM TO THOSE WHO DEPEND ON US AND TO
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THOSE WHO WOULD THREATEN US, THAT WE WILL NOT ALTER THIS COURSE.

MR. PRESIDENT, THE CRITICAL ISSUE CONFRONTING THIS BODY IS NOT THE HOW AND WHY OF IRANAIR 655 WHICH I WILL DISCUSS. IT IS THE CONTINUING REFUSAL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO COMPLY WITH RESOLUTION 598, TO NEGOTIATE AN END TO THE WAR WITH IRAQ, AND TO CEASE ITS ACTS OF AGGRESSION AGAINST NEUTRAL SHIPPING IN THE PERSIAN GULF.

THE VICTIMS OF IRANAIR 655 ARE ONLY THE MOST RECENT CASUALTIES OF A BRUTAL AND SENSELESS WAR THAT HAS BROUGHT IMMENSE PAIN AND SUFFERING TO THE PEOPLE OF BOTH SIDES.

IRAN LONG AGO COULD HAVE ACCEPTED, AND CAN STILL ACCEPT, AN HONORABLE END TO THE WAR. AS A FIRST STEP, IRAN SHOULD DECLARE ITS READINESS UNEQUIVOCALLY TO COMPLY WITH RESOLUTION 598 -- TODAY, FOR THE FIRST TIME, RIGHT HERE, NOW, BEFORE THIS BODY. IT CAN ACT NOW TO END THE UNSPEAKABLE SACRIFICES THAT THE PEOPLE OF BOTH IRAN AND IRAQ ARE BEING ASKED TO MAKE. WHAT POSSIBLE OBJECTIVE COULD BE WORTH THE HUMAN SUFFERING AND PAIN, THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF CASUALTIES, AND THE ECONOMIC DEVASTATION THAT THAT WAR HAS CAUSED ON BOTH SIDES?

A PARTICULARLY HORRIFYING ASPECT OF THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR IS THE INCREASINGLY ROUTINE USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS. WHO CAN FORGET THE PICTURES OF ENTIRE FAMILIES LYING DEAD IN THE STREETS OF THEIR VILLAGES, INNOCENT OF ANYTHING, YET KILLED IN THIS SAVAGE WAY? THIS USE OF
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CHEMICAL WEAPONS MUST STOP. LET ME MAKE A SPECIAL APPEAL HERE TODAY FOR ALL NATIONS TO ELIMINATE SUCH

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WARFARE. WHO CAN SLEEP AT NIGHT HAVING SEEN THAT PICTURE OF A MOTHER COVERING WITH HER OWN BODY THE BODY OF HER CHILD TRYING TO PROTECT THAT CHILD FROM THE HORROR OF INVISIBLE, INSIDIOUS DEATH.

ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, I WENT TO GENEVA IN 1984 TO PUT DOWN THERE A DRAFT TREATY BEFORE THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT TO BAN ALL CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS. I AM WELL AWARE THAT THERE ARE DIFFICULT VERIFICATION PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH BANNING THESE WEAPONS, BUT THIS MUST NOT DETER US FROM SEEKING AN END TO THAT MONSTROUS KIND OF WARFARE.

THE UNITED STATES WAS THE FIRST NATION PUBLICLY TO CONDEMN THE USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN THE WAR AS A BLATANT VIOLATION OF THE GENEVA PROTOCOLS. WE FULLY SUPPORT SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 612, WHICH DEMANDS AN IMMEDIATE END TO CHEMICAL WARFARE BY BOTH PARTIES. NO COUNTRY SHOULD THINK IT CAN USE CHEMICAL WEAPONS WITH IMPUNITY.

MR. PRESIDENT, WE HERE IN THE COUNCIL HAVE A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP BRING THIS WAR TO AN END. ALMOST A YEAR AGO, ON JULY 20, 1987, THIS COUNCIL RESPONDED TO THE HOPES OF THE WORLD WITH THE UNANIMOUS ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 598. THE UNITED STATES PLAYED A LEADING ROLE IN THE ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION. ITS PROVISIONS ARE FAMILIAR. IT PROVIDES A COMPREHENSIVE FRAMEWORK FOR AN IMMEDIATE END TO THE WAR.

RESOLUTION 598 HAD A UNIQUE, MANDATORY CHARACTER. IN ADOPTING RESOLUTION 598, THE MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL KNEW EXACTLY WHAT THEY WERE DOING IN ORDERING
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AN IMMEDIATE END TO THE CONFLICT WITHOUT THE AGREEMENT OF EITHER PARTY.

ALMOST A YEAR HAS PASSED, AND THE BLOODSHED CONTINUES UNCHECKED. THE TIME HAS COME FOR ACTION TO BRING THIS WAR TO AN END.

I CALL TODAY ON BOTH SIDES TO ACCEPT AN IMMEDIATE AND COMPREHENSIVE PERMANENT CEASEFIRE -- ON LAND, ON SEA AND IN THE AIR. LET THAT BE THE FIRST STEP IN THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 598, LEADING DIRECTLY TO PROMPT WITHDRAWAL TO INTERNATIONAL BORDERS, RETURN OF ALL PRISONERS OF WAR, AND ESTABLISHMENT OF AN IMPARTIAL BODY TO LOOK INTO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONFLICT. LET THAT STOP THE BLOODSHED. LET THAT PAVE THE WAY FOR AN ENDURING

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PEACEFUL RESOLUTION.

I HAD THE PRIVILEGE THIS MORNING OF MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO COMMEND HIS TIRELESS EFFORTS TO END THE WAR AND TO PROMISE OUR STRONG SUPPORT FOR HIS MEDIATION EFFORTS. I URGE THE MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL -- AND PARTICULARLY THE PERMANENT MEMBERS --

TO DO LIKEWISE, AND TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THEY WILL NOT SUPPORT EFFORTS TO DELAY THE IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 598 IN ALL OF ITS PROVISIONS.

MR. PRESIDENT, WE MUST NOT LOSE SIGHT OF ONE BASIC FACT: IRAQ HAS DECLARED ITS READINESS TO COMPLY WITH RESOLUTION 598 AS A BASIS FOR A SETTLEMENT, AND IRAN REGRETTABLY HAS NOT. INSTEAD OF EXPRESSING WILLINGNESS TO COMPLY WITH THE RESOLUTION, AND
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NEGOTIATING ITS IMPLEMENTATION IN GOOD FAITH, IRAN HAS PLAYED FOR TIME AND MANEUVERED FOR DIPLOMATIC ADVANTAGE -- AND THE IRANIAN PEOPLE HAVE PAID A HEAVY PRICE.

WE RESPECT IRAN'S RIGHT TO AIR ITS GRIEVANCES. BUT IRAN CANNOT HAVE IT BOTH WAYS. IRAN CANNOT SIMULTANEOUSLY COMPLAIN TO THIS BODY AND YET DEFY IT.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN HAS REFUSED TO SAY PLAINLY AND CLEARLY THAT IT WILL COMPLY WITH THE MANDATORY DECISION OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL. IRAN MUST NOT BE PERMITTED TO CHOOSE THOSE PROVISIONS OF RESOLUTION 598 THAT IT LIKES AND IGNORE THE OTHERS. NOR CAN IRAQ BE PERMITTED TO REST ON VERBAL ADHERENCE TO RESOLUTION 598, WHILE AVOIDING COOPERATION WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL IN FINDING PRACTICAL WAYS TO IMPLEMENT THE RESOLUTION.

FIRST, AN ASIDE: I HAD FORGOTTEN THIS, HAVING BEEN GONE FROM THE UNITED NATIONS FOR A LONG TIME, I CAN'T HELP BUT NOTICE HOW OFTEN IRAN QUOTED U.S. NEWSPAPERS. PERHAPS COMING FROM A COUNTRY NOT BLESSED WITH A VIGOROUS COMPETITIVE FREE PRESS AND FREE POLITICAL SYSTEM, THE IRANIANS DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT YOU CAN FIND COLUMNS OR COMMENTS TO SUPPORT ANY POINT OF VIEW YOU WANT IN THIS COUNTRY.

AS FOR THE IMMEDIATE MATTER AT HAND -- THE UNFORTUNATE DESTRUCTION OF IRANAIR 655 -- MANY OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES DO REMAIN UNCLEAR. OUR OWN MILITARY INVESTIGATION IS UNDER WAY. WE WILL ALSO COOPERATE WITH ANY INVESTIGATION THAT IS CONDUCTED BY THE

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INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION, AND WE
TRUST THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN WILL DO THE SAME.
WE WANT ALL THE RELEVANT FACTS TO BE BROUGHT TO LIGHT
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AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND, FOR THOSE FAMILIAR WITH
OUR SYSTEM, YOU KNOW THAT THEY WILL BE BROUGHT TO
LIGHT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

ONE THING IS CLEAR: THE U.S.S. VINCENNES ACTED IN
SELF-DEFENSE.

THIS TRAGIC ACCIDENT OCCURRED AGAINST A BACKDROP OF
REPEATED, UNJUSTIFIED, UNPROVOKED, AND UNLAWFUL
IRANIAN ATTACKS AGAINST U.S. MERCHANT SHIPPING AND
ARMED FORCES, BEGINNING WITH THE MINE ATTACK ON THE
USS BRIDGETON IN JULY OF 1987. IT OCCURRED IN THE
MIDST OF A NAVAL ATTACK INITIATED BY IRANIAN VESSELS
AGAINST A NEUTRAL VESSEL AND, SUBSEQUENTLY, AGAINST
THE VINCENNES WHEN SHE CAME TO THE AID OF THE INNOCENT
SHIP IN DISTRESS.

DESPITE THESE HOSTILITIES, IRANIAN AUTHORITIES FAILED
TO DIVERT IRANAIR 655 FROM THIS COMBAT AREA. THEY
ALLOWED A CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT LOADED WITH PASSENGERS TO
PROCEED ON A PATH OVER A WARSHIP ENGAGED IN ACTIVE
BATTLE. THAT WAS IRRESPONSIBLE AND A TRAGIC ERROR.

THERE ARE THREE WAYS FOR IRAN TO AVOID FUTURE
TRAGEDIES: KEEP AIRLINERS AWAY FROM COMBAT OR BETTER
STILL STOP ATTACKING INNOCENT SHIPS OR BETTER STILL
THE BEST WAY IS PEACE. THE SECURITY COUNCIL OFFERS
THE BEST HOPE OF PEACE RIGHT NOW.

THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO CAPTAIN WILL ROGERS, THE
CAPTAIN OF THE VINCENNES, INDICATED THAT AN IRANIAN
MILITARY AIRCRAFT WAS APPROACHING HIS SHIP WITH
HOSTILE INTENTIONS. AFTER SEVEN -- I WANT THE COUNCIL
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TO BE SURE TO UNDERSTAND THIS -- SEVEN UNANSWERED
WARNINGS, THE CAPTAIN DID WHAT HE HAD TO DO TO PROTECT
HIS SHIP AND THE LIVES OF HIS CREW. AS A MILITARY
COMMANDER, HIS FIRST DUTY AND RESPONSIBILITY IS TO
PROTECT HIS MEN AND HIS SHIP, AND HE DID SO.

THE WILD ALLEGATIONS BY THE IRAN SIDE THAT THE ATTACK
ON THIS AIRLINER WAS PREMEDITATED IS OFFENSIVE AND IT
IS ABSURD. THE UNITED STATES HAS NEVER WILLFULLY

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I CAN ALSO ASSURE YOU THAT THE UNITED STATES WON'T RISK PURPOSELY ENDANGERING INNOCENT CIVILIANS AS THE CHARGE LEVELED HERE TODAY, BUT I CAN ALSO SAY THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL NEVER PUT ITS MILITARY IN A DANGEROUS SITUATION AND DENY THEM THE RIGHT TO DEFEND.

MR. PRESIDENT, WE ARE ALL ACCUSTOMED BY NOW TO HEARING IRRESPONSIBLE CHARGES FROM THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT. THERE HAVE BEEN MANY PARTICULARLY EGREGIOUS STATEMENTS CONCERNING THIS INCIDENT. IF IRAN WANTS TO THROW 14 YEAR OLD KIDS INTO BATTLE IN A BLOODY WAR, THAT'S THEIR BUSINESS. IF THEY ATTACK INNOCENT SHIPPING AND PLACE MINES IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS, THAT'S THE BUSINESS OF ALL WHO VALUE FREEDOM, BUT THE ANSWER I KEEP COMING BACK TO IS: IT IS THE BUSINESS OF THIS COUNCIL -- IT IS PEACE.

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HAPPENED.

I CALL ON IRAN TODAY TO REROUTE CIVILIAN AIR TRAFFIC AWAY FROM AREAS OF ACTIVE HOSTILITIES. YESTERDAY, THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE AT THE ICAO MEETING ADVOCATED AN INVESTIGATION BY THE ICAO INTO THE IRANAIR INCIDENT AND IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION OF APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF CIVIL AVIATION IN THE GULF.

MR. PRESIDENT, THE TERRIBLE DISASTER OF IRANAIR 655 FILLS OUR HEARTS WITH SORROW -- AMERICAN HEARTS, HEARTS OF THE 14 COUNTRIES AROUND THIS TABLE. I AM SITTING NEXT TO THE DISTINGUISHED REPRESENTATIVE FROM YUGOSLAVIA -- SIX OF WHOSE COUNTRYMEN WERE KILLED IN THIS. OF COURSE, WE FEEL BADLY ABOUT IT; OF COURSE, WE HAVE COMPASSION; OF COURSE WE CARE.

DIFFERENCES AND BOUNDARIES. AS AMERICANS, WE SHARE

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YOU CAN'T BE AN AMERICAN IF YOU DON'T -- THE GRIEF OF THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS, WHATEVER THEIR NATIONALITIES. THAT INCLUDES THE INNOCENT CITIZENS FROM THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC.

IT IS THAT STRONGLY FELT SENSE OF COMMON HUMANITY THAT HAS LED OUR GOVERNMENT TO DECIDE THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL PROVIDE VOLUNTARY, EX GRATIA COMPENSATION TO THE FAMILIES OF THOSE WHO DIED IN THAT CRASH. THIS IS PROMPT REACTION FROM A PRESIDENT AND A COUNTRY THAT

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FEELS SOMETHING DEEPLY, FEELS THE COMPASSION FOR THOSE THAT INNOCENTLY LOST THEIR LIVES.

WE MAKE THIS OFFER STRICTLY AS A HUMANITARIAN GESTURE -- NOT AS A MATTER OF LEGAL OBLIGATION BUT OUT OF A SENSE OF MORAL COMPASSION, REFLECTING THE VALUE THAT WE, SIR, PLACE ON HUMAN LIFE. WE HOPE THAT COMPENSATION WILL EASE THE PAIN A LITTLE OF THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED A LOSS, EVEN AS WE RECOGNIZE THAT NOTHING WE CAN DO OR SAY CAN EVER BRING BACK THE LOVED ONES TO THE FAMILIES.

IN THE CASE OF IRANIAN VICTIMS, WE WILL TAKE APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT THE MONEY FLOWS DIRECTLY TO THE FAMILIES AND NOT THE GOVERNMENT: WE WILL PROVIDE NONE OF THESE FUNDS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN. INDEED, WE WILL PROVIDE NO COMPENSATION UNTIL MECHANISMS ARE IN PLACE TO ENSURE THAT THE MONEY GOES WHERE IT SHOULD -- TO THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS.

MR. PRESIDENT, THE TIME HAS COME, INDEED THE TIME IS LONG PAST, FOR US TO REDEDICATE OURSELVES TO THE CAUSE OF PEACE. THE IRANAIR TRAGEDY SHOULD REINFORCE OUR DETERMINATION TO ACT. IT SHOULD REMIND THOSE WHO WOULD PREFER TO IGNORE THE HUMAN COST OF THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR AND THE THREAT IT POSES TO THE SECURITY OF THE PERSIAN GULF -- THOSE WHO FIND REASONS TO DELAY RATHER THAN REASONS TO ACT FOR PEACE -- THAT THEIR COMPLACENCY CARRIES A HEAVY PRICE.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HAS ONE OVERARCHING GOAL IN THE PERSIAN GULF. THAT GOAL IS PEACE. PEACE MEANS CESSATION OF THE KILLING. PEACE MEANS A DEFINITIVE END TO THE WAR. PEACE MEANS TOTAL FREEDOM OF PASSAGE THROUGH THE STRAITS -- TOTAL FREEDOM OF SHIPS TO SAIL

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WITHOUT RISK IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS. PEACE ALSO
MEANS NATIONS LIVING WITHOUT THE FEAR OF THREATS OR
INTIMIDATIONS FROM THEIR NEIGHBORS.

TO THIS END, WE WILL CONTINUE TO DEFEND OUR INTERESTS
AND SUPPORT OUR FRIENDS, WHILE REMAINING STEADFASTLY
NEUTRAL IN THE WAR. AS LONG AS THIS CONFLICT
CONTINUES, WE AND OTHER WESTERN NATIONS WILL WORK TO
CONTAIN THE THREAT TO FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION AND
PEACEFUL COMMERCE IN A WATERWAY THAT IS VITAL TO THE
ECONOMIES OF THE WORLD. OUR NAVAL PRESENCE IS
WELCOMED BY PEACEFUL NATIONS. IT IS A THREAT TO NO
ONE. BUT WE WILL RESPOND FIRMLY IF WE ARE THREATENED.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 598 WOULD ENABLE THE
UNITED STATES TO RETURN TO THE MODEST NAVAL PRESENCE
IN THE GULF THAT WE HAVE MAINTAINED FOR MORE THAN 40
YEARS, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE GULF STATES. WE LOOK
FORWARD TO THAT DAY.

BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE: UNTIL THAT DAY, WE WILL DO
WHATEVER IT TAKES TO MAINTAIN FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION IN
THIS VITAL AREA OF THE WORLD, AND TO TAKE WHATEVER
ACTIONS WE MUST TO PROTECT OUR FORCES THERE. WE WILL
NOT LET DOWN OUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES. WE WILL NOT BE
INTIMIDATED BY RECKLESS ATTACKS OR TERROR. OUR
COMMITMENT TO FREEDOM AND PEACE DEMANDS THIS AND
NOTHING LESS FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
END TEXT.
WALTERS UNQUOTE WHITEHEAD

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E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, ICAO, IR

SUBJECT: DESTRUCTION OF IR 655

1. THE TEXT BELOW IS THE STATEMENT, AS DELIVERED BY
 RICHARD S. WILLIAMSON, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
 INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS, BEFORE THE
 EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL
 CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION (ICAO), IN MONTREAL ON
 JULY 13, 1988.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

MR. PRESIDENT, I APPRECIATE HAVING THIS OPPORTUNITY
 TO MAKE A STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF
 THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA REGARDING IRAN AIR
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FLIGHT 655 AND THE TRAGIC INCIDENT ON JULY 3, 1988.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE INCIDENT, THE PRESIDENT OF THE
 UNITED STATES EXPRESSED OUR DEEP REGRET OVER THE
 LOSS OF LIFE IN THIS TRAGEDY. PRESIDENT REAGAN'S
 SPOKESMAN ALSO HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE UNITED STATES
 IS PREPARED TO PROVIDE COMPENSATION TO THE FAMILIES
 OF THE VICTIMS, OF ALL NATIONALITIES, WHO DIED IN
 THIS ACCIDENT. THESE PAYMENTS WILL BE SUBJECT TO

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NORMAL UNITED STATES LEGAL REQUIREMENTS AND CONSULTATIONS WITH THE CONGRESS. THIS COMPENSATION WILL BE OFFERED ON AN EX GRATIA, OR VOLUNTARY BASIS, AND NOT ON THE BASIS OF ANY LEGAL LIABILITY OR OBLIGATION. WE SIMPLY BELIEVE IT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO IN THESE TRAGIC CIRCUMSTANCES.

AS MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL KNOW, THE UNITED STATES INITIATED ITS OWN FORMAL INVESTIGATION IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE INCIDENT ON JULY 3. THIS INVESTIGATION WILL BE THOROUGH. THERE ARE MANY IMPORTANT OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS. WE INTEND TO SHARE WITH ICAO AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE, CONSISTENT WITH THE PURPOSES OF ANY ICAO INVESTIGATION AND THE NEED TO SAFEGUARD INFORMATION RELATING TO SENSITIVE MILITARY MATTERS. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THIS ORGANIZATION INSTITUTE MEASURES TO PREVENT SIMILAR INCIDENTS IN THE FUTURE. WE WANT TO TAKE STEPS TOWARD IMPROVEMENTS THAT WILL BENEFIT CIVIL AVIATION IN THE PERSIAN GULF. WE PLEDGE OUR COOPERATION TO THE COUNCIL AND TO THE FULL ICAO MEMBERSHIP.

IN MY STATEMENT TODAY, I INTEND TO ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING:

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FIRST, I WILL DISCUSS THE GENERAL BACKGROUND TO THE INCIDENT, INCLUDING COMMENT ON THE CONTINUING CONFLICT IN THE PERSIAN GULF;

SECOND, I WILL DESCRIBE THE SPECIFIC SITUATION CONFRONTING THE CAPTAIN OF THE UNITED STATES SHIP VINCENNES ON JULY 3, 1988, AS THE FACTS ARE KNOWN TO US AT THIS TIME; AND

THIRD, I WILL DISCUSS POSSIBLE STEPS THAT THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION MIGHT CONSIDER IN ORDER TO AVOID FUTURE INCIDENTS SUCH AS THE ONE WE ADDRESS TODAY. MY GOVERNMENT WANTS TO WORK WITH ICAO ON MATTERS THAT CAN BE TAKEN, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, TO INCREASE THE SAFETY OF INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION IN THE PERSIAN GULF, A FUNDAMENTAL GOAL OF THIS ORGANIZATION AND CERTAINLY OF THE UNITED STATES. WE HOPE THIS EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE COUNCIL WILL INITIATE WORK TO THAT END.

GENERAL BACKGROUND ON THE SITUATION

LET ME BEGIN, MR. PRESIDENT, BY REVIEWING THE SITUATION, THAT EXISTED IN THE PERSIAN GULF ON JULY 3 WHEN THE INCIDENT INVOLVING IRAN AIR 655 OCCURRED.

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THIS TRAGEDY OCCURRED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE
CONTINUING WAR BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ. NOT ONLY HAS
THIS WAR CAUSED INCALCULABLE DAMAGE TO IRAN AND
IRAQ, BUT MANY NEUTRAL NATIONS AND INNOCENT PEOPLE
HAVE SUFFERED AS WELL. THE CONFLICT HAS BEEN A
THREAT TO THE STABILITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF
NATIONS IN THE GULF WHOSE SECURITY HAS LONG BEEN OF

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ACTION IO-19

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-10	EUR-00	SS-00	OIC-02	AF-00
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	COME-00	SSO-00	L-03	AMAD-01	PM-10	EAP-00	DOE-00
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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, ICAO, IR
SUBJECT: DESTRUCTION OF IR 655

CONCERN TO THE UNITED STATES.

THE ACCIDENT CANNOT BE CONSIDERED IN ISOLATION. THE WAR HAS GONE ON FOR ALMOST EIGHT YEARS, DESPITE THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL'S MANDATORY CALL, IN RESOLUTION 598, FOR AN IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE AND FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FORCES TO INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED BOUNDARIES. IF IRAN HAD HEEDED THE DECISION OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL, THE INCIDENT INVOLVING IRAN AIR 655 WOULD NOT HAVE OCCURRED.

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IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT THE U.S. NAVAL PRESENCE IN THE GULF IS AT FAULT IN THIS INCIDENT. MY GOVERNMENT REJECTS THAT CONTENTION. WE ARE IN THE GULF TO PRESERVE PEACE. OUR NAVAL PRESENCE, IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS, HAS BEEN UGMENTED IN ORDER TO CONTAIN THEEFFECT OF THE IRAN-IRAQ CONFLICT, TO ASSIST THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION, AND TO PROTECT U.S. FLAG SHIPPING. AS TENSIONS IN THE GULF DIMINISH, AND WE HOPE THEY DO, OUR PRESENCE, AND NO

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DOUBT THE PRESENCE OF OTHER WESTERN NAVIES, WILL BE REDUCED TO MORE TRADITIONAL LEVELS.

IN THE MEANTIME, MR. PRESIDENT, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE SAFETY OF NEUTRAL SHIPPING AND AIR TRAFFIC IS A MAJOR VICTIM OF THE WAR. INNOCENT SHIPS HAVE BEEN ATTACKED, AND INNOCENT CIVIL AIRLINERS HAVE HAD TO ALTER THEIR COURSES IN ORDER TO AVOID INADVERTENT CONFRONTATIONS IN AN AREA OF POTENTIAL HOSTILITIES.

MR. PRESIDENT, THE INCIDENT ON JULY 3 WAS, IN FACT, AN ACCIDENT. BUT, IT WAS AN ACCIDENT THAT WAS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE UNRESOLVED IRAN-IRAQ CONFLICT. INDEED, IN SEPTEMBER 1987, A GENERAL WARNING -- A NOTICE TO AIRMEN, OR NOTAM -- WAS ISSUED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT REGARDING FLIGHTS WITHIN THE PERSIAN GULF AREA, SPECIFICALLY EMPHASIZING THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE AND THE METHOD OF AIRCRAFT IDENTIFICATION. IN NOVEMBER 1987, YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, WROTE TO THE AUTHORITIES OF STATES IN THE PERSIAN GULF TO BRING TO THEIR ATTENTION THE "HAZARDOUS SITUATION FOR AIRCRAFT OPERATING IN THAT AREA."

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IN ADDITION, UNITED STATES NAVAL VESSELS HAVE ISSUED WARNINGS TO CIVIL AIRCRAFT ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS TO ALTER THEIR COURSES IN ORDER TO AVOID INADVERTENT CONFRONTATIONS. MY GOVERNMENT APPRECIATES THAT THERE ARE CONCERNS AND SENSITIVITIES RELATING TO MILITARY WARNINGS TO CIVIL AIRCRAFT. BUT, THESE WARNINGS HAVE BEEN ISSUED ONLY BECAUSE OF THE CONCERN OF THE UNITED STATES ABOUT THE SAFETY OF CIVIL AVIATION. I MUST ADD THAT NOT ALL CIVIL AIRCRAFT HAVE HEEDED THESE WARNINGS. IN PARTICULAR, IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT SOME IRANIAN AIRCRAFT HAVE CONTINUED TO FLY INTO AND OVER HOSTILE ZONES DESPITE REPEATED WARNINGS.

SPECIFIC SITUATION CONFRONTING THE VINCENNES

THIS WAS THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE PERTAINING IN THE GULF AT THE TIME OF THIS INCIDENT ON JULY 3. BUT, LET US LOOK MORE CLOSELY AT THE SPECIFIC SITUATION.

MR. PRESIDENT, I INVITE EACH MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES FACING THE CAPTAIN OF THE U.S. SHIP VINCENNES, BASED ON THE KNOWLEDGE THAT WE HAVE NOW. THE SHIP WAS, AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT, IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS, OUTSIDE THE ZONE

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OF EXCLUSION DECLARED BY IRAN. U.S. FORCES WERE ON
HEIGHTENED ALERT BECAUSE OF REPORTS ABOUT THE
POSSIBILITY OF IRAN ATTACK AGAINST U.S. SHIPS ON THE
UNITED STATES INDEPENDENCE DAY, THE FOURTH OF JULY.
ON THE AFTERNOON PRECEDING THE INCIDENT, IRAN F-14'S
APPROACHED ANOTHER U.S. CRUISER AND WERE WARNED AWAY
AFTER CLOSING TO WITHIN A FEW MILES OF THIS SHIP.

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED TO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS.

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ACTION IO-19

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FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1018
INFO FAA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
FAA BRUSSELS

UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 06 MONTREAL 02550

FROM USMISSION ICAO

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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, ICAO, IR
SUBJECT: DESTRUCTION OF IR 655

ONLY A FEW HOURS LATER ON JULY 2, A DANISH SHIP WAS
ATTACKED BY IRANIAN GUNBOATS AND REQUESTED
ASSISTANCE FROM U.S. FORCES. AT ABOUT 7:20 A.M. ON
JULY 3, A PAKISTANI SHIP ISSUED A DISTRESS CALL,
AGAIN DUE TO ATTACKS BY IRANIAN BOATS. LATER A
LIBERIAN SHIP ALSO WAS THREATENED. AT ABOUT 9:25
A.M. LOCAL TIME ON JULY 3, THE VINCENNES HAD SENT
HER HELICOPTER ON PATROL TO INVESTIGATE REPORTS THAT
IRANIAN BOATS WERE CLOSELY FOLLOWING A VESSEL OF THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY. THAT HELICOPTER WAS
FIRED UPON, AND IT RETURNED TO THE VINCENNES.

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A THREATENING TREND WAS CLEARLY DEVELOPING. IRANIAN
FIGHTERS HAD PRESSED TO WITHIN ONLY A FEW MILES OF A
NAVY CRUISER, FOUR NEUTRAL SHIPS HAD EITHER BEEN
ATTACKED OR THREATENED AND THE VINCENNES' OWN
HELICOPTER HAD BEEN SHOT AT BY IRANIAN GUNBOATS.

AS THE VINCENNES AND ANOTHER U.S. NAVAL VESSEL THEN
APPROACHED THE GROUP OF IRANIAN BOATS THAT HAD FIRED
UPON THE U.S. HELICOPTER, AT LEAST FOUR OF THE BOATS

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TURNED TOWARD THE U.S. SHIPS WITH OBVIOUS HOSTILE INTENTIONS. BOTH U.S. SHIPS BEGAN TO EXCHANGE FIRE WITH THE GUNBOATS, SINKING TWO OF THE IRANIAN BOATS AND DAMAGING A THIRD. THIS FIGHTING BETWEEN U.S. AND IRANIAN VESSELS TOOK PLACE BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER THE INCIDENT INVOLVING IRAN AIR 655.

MR. PRESIDENT, WITH THE VINCENNES ALREADY INVOLVED IN THIS EXCHANGE OF FIRE WITH ATTACKING SURFACE VESSELS, THE RADAR ON THE VINCENNES SUDDENLY SHOWED A PLANE IN THE VICINITY OF THE JOINT MILITARY-CIVILIAN AIRFIELD AT BANDAR-ABBAS AND HEADING DIRECTLY FOR THE VINCENNES. LET ME ADD THAT IRANIAN F-14 FIGHTERS ARE KNOWN TO BE BASED AT BANDAR-ABBAS, WHICH WAS THE SITE OF DEPARTURE FOR IRAN AIR 655. DESPITE REPEATED EFFORTS, REPEATED EFFORTS, BY THE VINCENNES TO ESTABLISH CONTACTS WITH THE UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT, THE PLANE DID NOT RESPOND TO THE VOICE TRANSMISSIONS ON INTERNATIONAL AIR DISTRESS AND MILITARY AIR DISTRESS FREQUENCIES. AN ELECTRONIC IFF INTERROGATION FROM THE VINCENNES INDICATED BOTH A MODE II AND A MODE III IFF RESPONSE. MODE II NORMALLY IS ASSOCIATED WITH MILITARY AIRCRAFT, AND THIS PARTICULAR MODE II

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RESPONSE HISTORICALLY HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH F-14S FLOWN BY IRAN IN THE GULF. IT MUST BE NOTED AS WELL THAT MILITARY AIRCRAFT ALSO ARE CAPABLE OF RESPONDING WITH MODE III.

I THINK FAIR-MINDED COUNCIL MEMBERS WILL AGREE THAT IT WAS REASONABLE IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES FOR THE CAPTAIN OF THE VINCENNES TO BELIEVE THAT HE MIGHT SOON COME UNDER ATTACK BY AN IRANIAN MILITARY AIRCRAFT SENT TO ASSIST THE IRANIAN BOATS THAT WERE INVOLVED AT THE TIME IN AN EXCHANGE OF FIRE WITH THE VINCENNES. THE PLANE WAS NOT FAR AWAY, GIVEN THE SPEED CAPABILITIES OF MODERN AIRCRAFT. TIME WAS SHORT. INDEED, THE CAPTAIN HAD ONLY A FEW BRIEF MINUTES FROM THE TIME THE AIRCRAFT WAS SPOTTED UNTIL IT COULD BE EXPECTED TO BE DIRECTLY OVER THE VINCENNES.

NONETHELESS, THE CAPTAIN AVOIDED IMMEDIATE AIR DEFENSIVE ACTION EVEN THOUGH THE SURFACE GUN BATTLE CONTINUED. AT SOME RISK TO HIS SHIP, IN THE EXTREMELY LIMITED TIME AVAILABLE, HE SOUGHT TO CONFIRM THE IDENTITY OF THE PLANE WHICH WAS OBSERVED TO ALTER A NORMAL CLIMB AND BEGAN DESCENDING WHILE HEADING RAPIDLY TOWARD HIM. REPEATEDLY, HE ASKED THE PLANE TO IDENTIFY ITSELF AND TURN AWAY.

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REPEATEDLY, EACH TIME HE WAS MET WITH SILENCE, ONLY
TO HAVE RADAR SHOW THE PLANE MOVING EVER CLOSER.
ULTIMATELY, AS THE RISK OF IMMINENT DANGER REACHED
AN EXTREME POINT AND WHILE STILL UNDER ATTACK BY
IRANIAN GUNBOATS, THE CAPTAIN FELT COMPELLED TO TAKE
ACTION TO PROTECT HIS MEN AND HIS VESSEL FROM WHAT
THEN APPEARED TO BE AN AIR ATTACK IN SUPPORT OF THE

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ACTION IO-19

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-10	EUR-00	SS-00	OIC-02	AF-00
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UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 06 MONTREAL 02550

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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, ICAO, IR
SUBJECT: DESTRUCTION OF IR 655

IRANIAN SURFACE COMBATANTS. FROM THE TIME THE
CAPTAIN FIRST CONSIDERED THE APPROACHING AIRCRAFT TO
BE HOSTILE, HE HAD ONLY 240 SECONDS, 4 MINUTES, TO
RECONCILE THE MENACING TREND THE IRANIANS HAD
EXHIBITED OVER THE PAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS. HE
WAITED UNTIL THE VERY LAST MINUTE TO DEFEND HIS SHIP
FROM AN AIR ATTACK.

GIVEN THE OVERALL TENSION OF THE SITUATION, THE
HISTORY OF ATTACKS ON UNITED STATES FLAG VESSELS,
AND THE IMMEDIATE SITUATION OF COMBAT CONFRONTING
THE CAPTAIN OF THE VINCENNES, IT IS NOT DIFFICULT TO
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IMAGINE HOW THE SCENARIO DEVELOPED. NOR IS IT
REASONABLE TO BELIEVE THAT THERE IS A SINGLE FOCUS
OF RESPONSIBILITY.

THOSE IN THIS COUNCIL WHO DEAL WITH THE TECHNOLOGY
OF AVIATION KNOW THAT THERE HAVE BEEN GREAT
TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES IN THIS FIELD. BUT, WE ALSO
KNOW THAT TECHNOLOGY HAS ITS LIMITATIONS. RADAR
TODAY CAN PERFORM SERVICES ONLY VAGUELY DREAMED

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ABOUT A FEW SHORT YEARS AGO. BUT, OFTEN IT CANNOT IDENTIFY THE SIZE, TYPE OR MISSION OF AN AIRCRAFT. IT CANNOT DIVINE THE INTENTIONS OF A PILOT WHO DOES NOT IDENTIFY HIMSELF AND DOES NOT IDENTIFY HIS PURPOSE, AS HE FLIES DIRECTLY INTO A SCENE OF HOSTILITIES.

MR. PRESIDENT, IN THE END, THE CAPTAIN OF A SHIP MUST MAKE A JUDGMENT ON THE BASIS OF THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO HIM. IT IS HIS SOLEMN RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT THE MEN UNDER HIS COMMAND. THAT IS WHAT HAPPENED IN THE CASE OF IRAN AIR 655. IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THE ENTIRE CONTEXT OF EVENTS DURING THAT TWENTY-FOUR-HOUR PERIOD ON JULY 2 AND 3. EVERYONE HAS THE DEEPEST REGRET FOR THE TRAGIC LOSS OF THE LIVES ON BOARD IRAN AIR 655. BUT, FAIR-MINDED PEOPLE MUST RECOGNIZE THE DIFFICULT OPTIONS PUT BEFORE A CAPTAIN WHO HAD TO MAKE THIS CRITICAL DECISION IN A VERY SHORT PERIOD AND WHILE UNDER CONTINUING ATTACK BY SURFACE VESSELS.

AT THE SAME TIME, I THINK WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT IRANIAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES MUST HAVE KNOWN THERE WAS A CONFLICT IN THE WATERS OF THE GULF. IF
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THEY DID NOT, THEY SHOULD HAVE KNOWN, AND THEY SHOULD HAVE TAKEN STEPS TO PREVENT THE PLANE FROM FLYING INTO AN AREA WHERE FIGHTING WAS IN PROGRESS. INDEED, IRANIAN VESSELS WERE ATTACKING UNITED STATES NAVAL VESSELS AT THE VERY MOMENT THAT IRAN AIR 655 TOOK OFF FROM BANDAR-ABBAS. THE PLANE HEADED STRAIGHT FOR THE SCENE OF THE CONFLICT AND FAILED TO HEED, OR EVEN ANSWER, THE REPEATED WARNINGS AND REQUESTS FOR IDENTIFICATION. SOME DEGREE OF RESPONSIBILITY MUST BE TAKEN BY IRAN FOR PUTTING ITS AIRCRAFT IN THIS VERY VULNERABLE POSITION. THE INNOCENT VICTIMS ON IRAN AIR 655 ARE JUST THE LATEST AMONG THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF CASUALTIES IN A NEEDLESS WAR WHICH SHOULD HAVE ENDED LONG AGO.

LOOKING AHEAD

NEVERTHELESS, MR. PRESIDENT, THE IMPORTANT QUESTION IS WHERE WE GO FROM HERE. WE CAN AND MUST AGREE TO TAKE ALL APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT SUCH TRAGEDIES DO NOT OCCUR.

FIRST OF ALL, MR. PRESIDENT, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THE COUNCIL TO ASK THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION SECRETARY GENERAL TO CONDUCT A FACT-FINDING INVESTIGATION ON THE INCIDENT

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OF JULY 3, WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF IDENTIFYING
POSSIBLE MEASURES FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF CIVIL
AVIATION IN THE GULF, AND TO REPORT BACK TO THIS
COUNCIL. THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO COOPERATE
IN ALL APPROPRIATE RESPECTS WITH AN ICAO
INVESTIGATION, AND IS CONVINCED THAT, AS A RESULT OF
THE REVIEW BY THIS COUNCIL, THE DIFFICULTY OF THE
COMPLEX SITUATION IN THE GULF WILL BE UNDERSTOOD
BETTER, AND APPROPRIATE PROCEDURES TO PROMOTE CIVIL
AVIATION SAFETY IN THAT REGION CAN BE IMPLEMENTED.
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ACTION IO-19

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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, ICAO, IR
SUBJECT: DESTRUCTION OF IR 655

ONLY A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION CAN HELP RESOLVE THE
MANY QUESTIONS AND ANOMALIES SURROUNDING THE
INCIDENT ON JULY 3.

MY GOVERNMENT TRUSTS THAT ALL THE CONCERNED
GOVERNMENTS WILL GIVE THIS INVESTIGATION THEIR FULL
SUPPORT. IN PARTICULAR, MR. PRESIDENT, WE URGE THE
GOVERNMENT OF IRAN TO COOPERATE FULLY BY PROVIDING
ICAO WITH THE FLIGHT DATA AND COCKPIT VOICE
RECORDERS, AND ANY OTHER SPECIFIC INFORMATION WHICH
CAN HELP DETERMINE THE ACTUAL FACTS OF THE SITUATION
AND RESOLVE ANY ANOMALIES.

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MR. PRESIDENT, LET ME AFFIRM MY OWN GOVERNMENT'S
INTENTION TO COOPERATE WITH THE INVESTIGATION. WE
ARE WORKING TO COMPLETE OUR OWN INVESTIGATION AS
QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND WILL MAKE INFORMATION
AVAILABLE, CONSISTENT WITH SAFEGUARDING THE RIGHTS OF
INDIVIDUALS AND MILITARY SECURITY MATTERS.

SECOND, MY GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT THIS COUNCIL AND

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THIS ORGANIZATION MUST CONSIDER SOON WHETHER NEW STEPS CAN BE TAKEN WHICH WOULD HELP THE SITUATION RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION SAFETY IN THE PERSIAN GULF AREA. IT IS APPARENT THAT FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS ARE NEEDED IN INTERNATIONAL OPERATING PRACTICES, AND THAT OTHER STEPS CAN BE TAKEN WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION COMMUNITY WHICH CLARIFY EXISTING RULES OR PROCEDURES AND ENHANCE THEIR EFFECTIVENESS IN AVOIDING TRAGIC ACCIDENTS. MY GOVERNMENT STANDS READY TO ASSIST IN THIS PROCESS. MR. PRESIDENT, WE NEED NOT AWAIT THE RESULT OF ANY INVESTIGATION TO BEGIN CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE STEPS TO MAKE CIVIL AVIATION MORE SAFE AND MORE SECURE IN THE PERSIAN GULF AREA.

TO BE MORE SPECIFIC, LET ME LIST SOME EXAMPLES OF AREAS THAT MAY HAVE SOME IMMEDIATE PRACTICAL APPLICATION REGARDING CIVIL AVIATION IN THE PERSIAN GULF AREA:

(1) CIVIL AIR ROUTES IN THE GULF MIGHT BE RESTRUCTURED, WHERE POSSIBLE, TO MINIMIZE CONTACT WITH AREAS OF MILITARY ACTIVITY.

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(2) ALTERNATE ROUTES MIGHT BE OPENED.

(3) NEW MINIMUM ALTITUDES MIGHT BE SET FOR CIVIL AIRCRAFT OPERATING OVER WATER.

(4) TRANSPONDER EQUIPMENT USED BY CIVIL AIRCRAFT MIGHT BE CONTROLLED MORE CAREFULLY TO ENSURE THAT THE IDENTITY OF AN AIRLINER IS UNAMBIGUOUS TO ALL MILITARY AND CIVIL AIR TRAFFIC SERVICE FACILITIES.

(5) RADIO COMMUNICATIONS MIGHT BE IMPROVED TO ENSURE THAT WARNINGS TO AIRLINE PILOTS ARE COMMUNICATED, RECEIVED, AND GIVEN A PROMPT RESPONSE.

THESE ARE JUST SOME EXAMPLES OF STEPS THAT MIGHT BE FOLLOWED. OTHER IDEAS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY EMERGE AS WE DISCUSS THESE TOPICS, BOTH NOW AND AFTER AN INVESTIGATION. LET US KEEP OUR MINDS OPEN AND FOCUSED ON TAKING TRULY CONSTRUCTIVE STEPS THAT CAN SERVE TO PREVENT SIMILAR ACTIONS IN THE FUTURE. WHEN THE COUNCIL CONSIDERS THE REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL ABOUT IRAN AIR 655, IT MAY WISH TO INITIATE A REVIEW OF ICAO DOCUMENTS TO DETERMINE THE STATUS OF THEIR CURRENT IMPLEMENTATION AND THE NEED FOR POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS.

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FINALLY, MR. PRESIDENT, LET ME MAKE CLEAR THAT THE
RISK OF FUTURE TRAGEDIES SUCH AS THE DOWNING OF IRAN
AIR 655 ON JULY 3 WILL REMAIN SO LONG AS THE
SENSELESS AND TRAGIC WAR IN THE PERSIAN GULF
CONTINUES. ALL OF US MUST COOPERATE IN THE UNITED
NATIONS SO THAT THIS CONFLICT CAN BE BROUGHT TO AN
END. THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN IS THE ONLY PARTY TO THE
CONFLICT WHICH HAS REFUSED TO EXPRESS A WILLINGNESS

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ACTION IO-19

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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, ICAO, IR
SUBJECT: DESTRUCTION OF IR 655

TO COMPLY WITH THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL'S MANDATORY
DECISION IN RESOLUTION 598. IN PARTICULAR, IRAN MUST
BE URGED BY ALL RESPONSIBLE PARTIES TO SUMMON THE
POLITICAL WILL TO END A CONFLICT WHICH HAS CLAIMED SO
MANY INNOCENT VICTIMS.

CONCLUSION

MR. PRESIDENT, IN CLOSING, THE UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT REMAINS COMMITTED TO THE SAFETY OF
INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION. IN PARTICULAR, WE
REAFFIRM OUR SUPPORT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL
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AVIATION ORGANIZATION AND ITS FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVES
OF PROMOTING THE SAFETY OF INTERNATIONAL CIVIL
AVIATION AND ENSURING ITS ORDERLY GROWTH THROUGHOUT
THE WORLD. OUR COOPERATION IN THIS INVESTIGATION
WILL BE BUT FURTHER EVIDENCE OF OUR SUPPORT FOR THIS
BODY.

MY GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN IN THE FOREFRONT OF LEADING
AVIATION NATIONS IN PROPOSING MEASURES TO ENSURE

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SAFETY AND SECURITY IN CIVIL AVIATION, AND THAT
COMMITMENT WILL CONTINUE. MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL
NOW THAT THE UNITED STATES CALLS FOR AND EXPECTS A
GREAT DEAL ON THE PART OF OTHER NATIONS REGARDING
SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION
AND WE WILL DO NO LESS THAN WE REQUEST OF OTHERS.

MR. PRESIDENT, THIS COUNCIL HAS A LONG HISTORY OF
CAREFUL DELIBERATIONS AND OF FAIRNESS AND WISDOM IN
ITS JUDGMENTS. MY GOVERNMENT TRUSTS THAT ITS
MEMBERS, AS IN PAST INCIDENTS, WILL REACH ITS
CONCLUSIONS ONLY AFTER ALL OF THE FACTS HAVE BEEN
RECEIVED. WE LOOK FORWARD TO JOINING WITH THE OTHER
MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL IN A SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS TO
AVOID TRAGIC INCIDENTS SUCH AS THE ONE INVOLVING IRAN
AIR 655. IN DOING SO, WE CAN, TOGETHER, REAFFIRM THE
ROLE OF ICAO IN MAKING AIR TRAVEL SAFE FOR ALL OUR
CITIZENS. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. STOHR

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ACTION EUR-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 PM-10
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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
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THE WHITE HOUSE
AMCONSUL HALIFAX
AMCONSUL QUEBEC
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL TORONTO
AMCONSUL CALGARY
AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

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USIA

AGENCY FOR P/M (INFO P/R); P/GF; P/FW; P/FN; VOA/BXN;
P/PFE; EU
STATE FOR EUR/CAN; EUR/PA
WHITE HOUSE PASS NSC/WEUROPE

E.O. 12356 N/A

TAGS: ECPS, PREL, CA, IR, MOPS

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION --SHOOTING DOWN OF IRANIAN
JETLINER, CAMPAIGN '88, WATER DIVERSION

1. THERE WERE THREE ITEMS OF INTEREST IN CANADIAN
PAPERS ON JULY 13, IN ADDITION TO ONE FROM THE AFTERNOON
EDITION OF A VANCOUVER PAPER JULY 11. EXCERPTS FOLLOW.

2. THE TORONTO STAR CARRIED AN EDITORIAL ABOUT REAGAN'S
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PLANS TO COMPENSATE THE FAMILIES OF THOSE KILLED IN THE
IRANIAN AIRBUS, CALLED, "GESTURE OF RESPECT FOR AIRBUS
VICTIMS." "....IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO, AND HE
(REAGAN) DESERVES CREDIT. NOTHING CAN GIVE INNOCENT
VICTIMS BACK THEIR LIVES, BUT GENEROUS EX GRATIA
PAYMENTS TO GRIEVING RELATIVES WILL SHOW PROPER RESPECT
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

3. "AS FACTS DRIBBLE OUT ABOUT THE TRAGEDY, IT SEEMS

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CLEAR THAT REAGAN WAS PREMATURE IN SAYING THE CRUISER USS VINCENNES TOOK "PROPER DEFENSIVE ACTION" AGAINST THE AIRLINER IT MISTOOK FOR A HOSTILE F-14 WARPLANE....THE LATEST EXPLANATION OF WHAT HAPPENED, ACCORDING TO THE WASHINGTON POST, IS THAT COMPUTERS, ACTING IN CONCERT WITH THE U.S. CRUISER'S AEGIS RADARS, MAY HAVE WRONGLY ADVISED THE CAPTAIN TO FIRE. IF HIGH-TECH MACHINES ARE NOW MAKING LIFE-OR-DEATH MILITARY DECISIONS FOR HUMANS, THEN COMPENSATION FOR THE TRAGIC U.S. NEGLIGENCE IN THE GULF MUST BE FOLLOWED BY MEASURES TO ENSURE IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN."

4. THE TORONTO SUN CARRIED AN OP-ED COLUMN BY DOUGLAS FISHER ENTITLED "HI-TECH'S HIGH RISK." IT DEALT WITH AMERICAN MILITARY POLICY IN THE GULF. "....A QUESTION UNLIKELY TO BE ANSWERED ABOUT THE IRANIAN AIRBUS TRAGEDY IS WHY THE CAPTAIN OF THE USS VINCENNES DID NOT HAVE OPTIONS OTHER THAN TO FIRE AT THE AIRLINER. HE DECIDED TO DO SO WHEN ELECTRONIC REPORTS INDICATED IT WAS A HOSTILE FIGHTER ABOUT TO ATTACK HIS SHIP....

5. "AND THERE IS WONDER ABOUT THE SCOPE OF AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE, GIVEN THE POST-TRAGEDY ASSERTIONS OF JOURNALISTIC SPECIALISTS THAT IRAN HAS NOT BEEN ABLE FOR
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MONTHS TO USE ITS WELL-AGED STRIKE AIRCRAFT. IF IRAN HAD SUCH MEANS, THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN APPARENT RECENTLY IN THE VICIOUS WAR WITH IRAQ. ONE ROUTE TO THE AIRBUS DISASTER LEADS FROM AMERICAN DOMESTIC POLITICS AND THE FIGHTS WITHIN THE PENTAGON FOR CONTROL OF THE U.S. DEFENCE BUDGET....

6. "WHY ARE THE VAUNTED SUPERCARRIERS, THE HARD CORE OF THE U.S. SURFACE FLEET, NOT IN THE GULF? IT IS TOO NARROW, TOO SHALLOW. THERE THEY WOULD BE MOST VULNERABLE. NEVERTHELESS, THE AMERICANS HAVE SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT CAPABLE OF OPERATING EFFECTIVELY IN THE GULF. THESE COULD HAVE AVERTED THE TRAGEDY. WHATEVER THE RIGORS OF THE INVESTIGATIONS NOW UNDER WAY IT IS UNLIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT THE EFFECTIVE EQUIPMENT WILL BE BROUGHT TO BEAR....

7. "IF CAPT. ROGERS OF THE VINCENNES HAD HAD HARRIERS AT HAND ON THE FATEFUL MORNING, HE WOULD HAVE EITHER HAD HARRIERS ON PATROL OR UP TO INTERCEPT AND IDENTIFY THE AIRBUS AS SOON AS HIS RADAR SHOWED A PLANE CLIMBING FROM BANDAR ABBAS AIRPORT. NO 290 INNOCENTS GONE WHY NO HARRIERS IN THE GULF? WITHIN THE U.S., DEBATE HAS RAGED FOR YEARS OVER THE BUILDING OF MORE AND MORE SUPERCARRIERS. SUBSTANTIALLY, THE ADVOCATES FOR THE LEVIATHANS HAVE WON OUT IN A LONG WAR OF WORDS OVER A

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88OTTAWA005711

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FEW MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND THOSE IN THE DEFENCE
COMMUNITY WHO ARGUE BIG SHIPS ARE TOO UNWIELDY, TOO
VULNERABLE IN THE AGE OF GUIDED MISSILES, AND PREFER
LARGER NUMBERS OF SMALL, LESS COSTLY CARRIERS FITTED
WITH V/STOL (VERTICAL TAKE-OFF) AIRCRAFT.

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ACTION EUR-00

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O 131827Z JUL 88
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4364
THE WHITE HOUSE
AMCONSUL HALIFAX
AMCONSUL QUEBEC
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL TORONTO
AMCONSUL CALGARY
AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 OTTAWA 05711

USIA

AGENCY FOR P/M (INFO P/R); P/GF; P/FW; P/FN; VOA/BXN;
P/PFE; EU
STATE FOR EUR/CAN; EUR/PA
WHITE HOUSE PASS NSC/WEUROPE

E.O. 12356 N/A
TAGS: ECPS, PREL, CA, IR, MOPS

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION --SHOOTING DOWN OF IRANIAN

8. "EARLIER IN THE GULF WHEN IRANIAN MINES WERE A
THREAT, THE USS GUAM, ONE OF THE HELICOPTER ASSAULT
SHIPS, WAS USED TO BRING MINE-SWEEPING HELICOPTERS INTO
PLAY. BUT FOR THE U.S. NAVY TO USE THE MARINES' SHIPS
AND AIRCRAFT INSIDE THE GULF IN THE ROLE RESERVED FOR
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THE SUPERCARRIERS AND THEIR LARGE, SOPHISTICATED
FIGHTERS WOULD BE AN ADMISSION THE DOMESTIC CRITICS WERE
RIGHT, AT LEAST IN PART...."

9. THE TORONTO SUN'S WASHINGTON COLUMNIST, KATHY LEWIS,
WROTE A PIECE ON DUKAKIS' VICE-PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE,
CALLED, "MAYBE MIKE GOT THIS ONE RIGHT." "....PICKING
U.S. VICE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE MORE OFTEN THAN NOT"
REMAINS ONE OF THE MORE AWKWARD EVENTS IN AMERICAN

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POLITICS....DUKAKIS'...DELAY IN MAKING A DECISION ALSO LEFT THE APPEARANCE THAT HE WAS HAVING TROUBLE MAKING UP HIS MIND. MORE IMPORTANTLY IT GAVE JESSE JACKSON THE CHANCE TO KEEP GRABBING HEADLINES AT A TIME WHEN ALL EYES SHOULD HAVE BEEN FOCUSED ON THE SOON-TO-BE NOMINEE.

10. "THERE, HOWEVER, IS A LESSON TO BE REMEMBERED. A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE CAN FLUNK OR MESS UP IN THE WAY HE MAKES HIS CHOICE. BUT IF HE PICKS A WINNER -- OR SOMEONE ONE WHO AT LEAST IS PERCEIVED AS THE RIGHT RUNNING MATE -- THEN IT'S SOON FORGOTTEN HOW HE DID IT. ASK ANY TEXAS DEMOCRAT YESTERDAY, AND QUITE A FEW OTHERS, AND THEY'LL TELL YOU DUKAKIS DID JUST THAT WHEN HE PICKED TEXAS SEN. LLOYD BENTSEN."

11. THE AFTERNOON VANCOUVER SUN CARRIED AN EDITORIAL ON THE LAKE MICHIGAN WATER DIVERSION PROPOSAL ENTITLED, "COVETOUS U.S. EYES ON OUR WATER." "THE PROMPT REACTION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PROTESTING A PROPOSAL TO DIVERT WATER FROM LAKE MICHIGAN IN THE UNITED STATES IS A FORETASTE OF A PROBLEM THAT COULD WELL BECOME THE MAJOR ISSUE BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES IN THE NEXT CENTURY....

12. "BUT BECAUSE OF THE INTERRELATIONSHIP OF THE GREAT
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LAKES, OF WHICH MICHIGAN IS THE ONLY ONE UNSHARED BY THE TWO COUNTRIES, THERE IS CONCERN ABOUT EFFECTS ON THE WATERS OF THE OTHER LAKES AND WATERWAYS THAT DO CROSS THE BORDER INTO CANADA. IT IS NOT PARANOIA. NOR ARE CANADIAN WATERS AS SAFE AS POLITICIANS LIKE JUSTICE MINISTER RAY HNATYSHYN ASSERT. CANADA CLAIMS THE ARCTIC WATERS BUT THAT HASN'T STOPPED TRESPASSING....

13. "THIS SUMMER'S DROUGHT THAT HAS WRECKED THE ILLINOIS CORN CROP PROMPTS THE GOVERNOR OF THAT STATE TO SEEK THE LAKE MICHIGAN DIVERSION. BUT IF THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT PERSISTS, AS EXPECTED, DEMANDS OF PARCHED STATES AND CITIES WILL SURELY INCREASE AND SO WILL THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF CANADIAN WATER. WE SHOULD BE READY FOR THIS. IT MAY BE TIME FOR A NEW WATER ACT AND FOR A REJUVENATION OF THE IJC (INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION).

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	EAP-00	PA-01	FAAE-00	DOTE-00	OMB-01	INRE-00	ACDA-12
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 14752

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, MOPS, UK, ZP, IR
SUBJECT: JULY 10TH NEWSPAPER ARTICLE ABOUT THE IRAN
- AIRBUS SHOOT-DOWN

1. (U) AN ARTICLE ENTITLED "GCHQ SHOWS ERROR BY U.S. OVER AIRBUS" WAS PUBLISHED IN THE JULY 10 "SUNDAY TIMES." FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THAT ARTICLE WRITTEN BY "SUNDAY TIMES" DEFENSE CORRESPONDENT JAMES ADAMS:

2. (U) BEGIN TEXT:

A SECRET REPORT, BASED ON RADIO INTERCEPTS PREPARED BY BRITISH INTELLIGENCE, IS SEVERELY CRITICAL OF THE ROLE OF THE U.S. NAVY IN SHOOTING DOWN THE IRANIAN AIRBUS IN THE GULF LAST WEEK.

THE REPORT CONCLUDES THAT THE ILL-FATED FLIGHT IR655 HAD LEFT BANDAR ABBAS ONLY THREE MINUTES LATE, WAS ON THE RIGHT FLIGHT PATH, AND WAS CLIMBING -- NOT DESCENDING,

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AS THE AMERICANS FIRST CLAIMED -- WHEN IT WAS BLOWN APART BY THE U.S. CRUISER VINCENNES.

ALL THE CONVERSATIONS DURING THE CRITICAL TWO HOURS LEADING TO THE SHOOTING DOWN OF THE AIRBUS, WITH THE LOSS OF 290 LIVES, WERE MONITORED BY BRITAIN'S GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS HEADQUARTERS (GCHQ) LISTENING POSTS IN THE GULF.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE 9203931 IS/FC/CDR 128 Date 9/18/96

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THEY INCLUDE CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN THE AIRCRAFT AND GROUND CONTROL AT BANDAR ABBAS, AS WELL AS THE EFFORTS BY THE VINCENNES TO WARN THE IRANIAN AIRCRAFT TO CHANGE COURSE. SOME OF THE CONVERSATIONS WERE ALSO MONITORED BY HMS BEAVER, A TYPE 22 FRIGATE OF THE BRITISH ARMILLA PATROL 50 MILES AWAY.

ON THE INTELLIGENCE AVAILABLE TO THE BRITISH, IT IS CLAIMED THAT IN A SIMILAR SITUATION ROYAL NAVY SHIPS WOULD NOT HAVE OPENED FIRE.

THE REPORT ALSO SUGGESTS THAT THE INITIAL CONFRONTATION THAT STARTED THE SHOOTING LAST MONDAY MORNING MAY HAVE BEEN PROVOKED BY AMERICAN HELICOPTERS FLYING INTO IRANIAN AIRSPACE. THE HELICOPTERS WERE FIRED ON BY IRANIAN BOATS, WHICH WERE, IN TURN, SHOT AT BY THE VINCENNES. THE AIRBUS FLEW INTO THE MIDDLE OF THIS CONFRONTATION.

THE U.S. HAS ASKED ITS ALLIES TO PASS ON ANY INFORMATION THAT COULD HELP THEIR INVESTIGATION. ACCORDING TO MINISTRY OF DEFENCE SOURCES, TRANSCRIPTS OF WARNINGS GIVEN BY THE VINCENNES TO THE AIRBUS HAVE ALREADY BEEN PASSED ON.

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THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WAS OPPOSED TO THE DISPATCH OF THE U.S. NAVY TO THE GULF TO ESCORT OIL TANKERS, A MOVE THAT WAS EXPECTED TO INCREASE RATHER THAN REDUCE TENSION. WHEN THE USS STARK WAS HIT BY AN IRAQI MISSILE IN MAY 1987, KILLING 37 U.S. SAILORS, THE RULES OF ENGAGEMENT -- WHICH SET LIMITS ON WHEN U.S. FORCES COULD OPEN FIRE -- WERE RELAXED.

"IN THIS CASE," SAID ONE MOD SOURCE, "THE RULES WERE WRITTEN IN SUCH A WAY THAT IT WAS A RECIPE FOR DISASTER. THERE IS NO WAY WE WOULD HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO FIRE ACTING ON JUST ONE SOURCE OF INFORMATION, AS SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN THE CASE."

THE INTELLIGENCE REPORT ALSO MAKES CLEAR THAT DETAILS OF ALL SCHEDULED FLIGHTS WOULD HAVE BEEN PUT INTO ROYAL NAVY COMPUTERS, SO RADAR OPERATORS WOULD KNOW A CIVILIAN PLANE WAS DUE.

THE ATTACK ON THE IRANIAN AIRBUS WAS NOT THE FIRST TIME THAT THE AMERICAN NAVY IN THE GULF HAS MISTAKEN A COMMERCIAL FLIGHT FOR A MILITARY ONE, WRITES STEPHEN MILLIGAN IN WASHINGTON.

THE FORMER COMMANDER OF THE USS STARK TOLD THE SUNDAY

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88LONDON014752

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TIMES" LAST WEEK THAT AN IRANIAN JUMBO JET CARRYING
HUNDREDS OF PILGRIMS TO MECCA WAS NEARLY BLOWN UP FOUR
YEARS AGO, AFTER A SAUDI ARABIAN AWACS SURVEILLANCE
PLANE HAD MISTAKEN IT FOR A FIGHTER.

CAPTAIN GLENN BRINDEL SAID THAT AS A RESULT OF THE 747
INCIDENT, ALL U.S. SHIPS IN THE GULF WERE UNDER
INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO BE "TRIGGER HAPPY" -- AND THIS WAS

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 14752

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, MOPS, UK, ZP, IR
SUBJECT: JULY 10TH NEWSPAPER ARTICLE ABOUT THE IRAN
WHY HIS OWN CREW HAD BEEN RELUCTANT TO SHOOT THE IRAQI
PLANE THAT WENT ON TO ATTACK THE STARK.

END TEXT

3. ~~(c)~~ COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE THATCHER GOVERNMENT
REMAINS STAUNCHLY SUPPORTIVE OF THE U.S. IN THE WAKE OF
THE AIRBUS SHOOTDOWN, REPORTS OF THIS NATURE ARE LIKELY
TO REINFORCE LINGERING CONCERNS AMONG SOME HMG OFFICIALS
THAT THE CAPTAIN OF THE VINCENNES MAY HAVE ERRED. IN A
CONVERSATION WITH THE DCM LAST THURSDAY (JULY 7), FCO
MINISTER OF STATE DAVID MELLOR SAID THERE WAS SOME
PRIVATE SHOCK WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT THAT SUCH AN
INCIDENT COULD HAVE HAPPENED.
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THE WHITE HOUSE

AMCONSUL HALIFAX

AMCONSUL QUEBEC

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMCONSUL TORONTO

AMCONSUL CALGARY

AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

DEPARTMENT OF STATE 920393 (S/FPC/CDR) Date. 9/18/96

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 OTTAWA 05624

USIA

AGENCY FOR P/M (INFO P/R); P/GF; P/FW; P/FN; VOA/BXN;

P/PFE; EU

STATE FOR EUR/CAN; EUR/PA

WHITE HOUSE PASS NSC/WEUROPE

E.O. 12356 N/A

TAGS: ECPS, PREL, CA, IR

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION --SHOOTING DOWN OF IRANIAN
JETLINER, WATER DIVERSION, WORLD BANK REPORT, GEORGE BUSH

1. THERE WERE TWO ITEMS ABOUT THE IRAN AIRBUS INCIDENT IN CANADIAN PAPERS THIS WEEKEND, AS WELL AS TWO EDITORIALS ON WATER DIVERSION. THERE WERE ALSO SINGLE ITEMS ON THE WORLD BANK'S REPORT, AND ON GEORGE BUSH'S PRESIDENTIAL BID. EXCERPTS FOLLOW.

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2. ALL ITEMS ON THE IRAN INCIDENT APPEARED IN THE TORONTO SUN. THE FIRST, "WHEN THE BIG GUYS LIE", WAS CARRIED ON JULY 11. "....THE WAR INVOLVED DOES NOT INCLUDE THE UNITED STATES. IT IS, IN FACT, A WAR BETWEEN IRAQ AND IRAN. THE UNITED STATES HAS CHOSEN TO PUT ITS WARSHIPS THERE TO PROTECT -- THIS IS SOMETHING THAT SEEMS TO GET LEFT OUT OF THE STORIES FROM WASHINGTON -- "THE RIGHT OF INNOCENT PASSAGE".

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3. "INTERNATIONAL BULLIES, WHETHER THEY ARE AMERICANS OPERATING UNDER AN IDIOTIC POLICY OR SOVIET THUGS OPERATING FROM A DELIBERATE ONE, SOUND MUCH THE SAME. THE INTERFERENCE ALWAYS COMES IN DEFENCE OF PEACE AND HARMONY, AND IT ALWAYS ENDS UP WITH INNOCENT BODIES, AND IT IS ALWAYS THE FAULT OF THE INNOCENT VICTIMS FOR BEING WHERE THEY ARE NOT WANTED...U.S. POLITICIANS ARE TREATING THIS ONE WITH THE KIND OF UNCTUOUS TIMIDITY YOU WOULD EXPECT IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF A WHITE HOUSE RACE....

4. "IT WAS ALWAYS A LUNATIC POLICY...THEN, AFTER THE IRANIAN REVOLUTION, FOR WHICH AMERICAN POLICY MUST BEAR AT LEAST SOME OF THE BLAME, THEY (AMERICANS) SWITCHED SIDES. NOW, THEY ARE NOT EXACTLY PRO-IRAQ, BUT SORT OF. AND THEIR SHIPS ARE IN THERE, MISSILES AND ALL, ON BEHALF OF INNOCENT PASSAGE. AND WE ARE TO BELIEVE IT. IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN NICE IF, JUST FOR ONCE, CANADA HAD LAID OFF THE READY, AYE, READY GAMBIT LONG ENOUGH TO LET US FIND OUT WHAT REALLY HAPPENED.

5. ON JULY 10, THE SUN'S EDITORIAL WAS ENTITLED, "A POWDER KEG SMOLDERS." "....BUT TWO THINGS HAVE EMERGED
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WITH CRYSTAL CLARITY IN THE LOSS OF AIR IRAN FLIGHT 655. FIRSTLY, THE IRANIANS KNEW THE VINCENNES HAD JUST BEEN UNDER THEIR HOSTILE FIRE. YOU'D EXPECT THEM TO HAVE THE BRAINS TO KEEP A CIVILAIN AIRLINER OUT OF THE AREA, REGARDLESS OF WHOSE AIRSPACE IS INVOLVED.

6. "ALSO, THE HOWLING OF THE LEFT'S JACKALS ASIDE, THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO REASON TO BELIEVE THE AMERICANS DELIBERATELY DESTROYED THE PLANE. INDEED, THOSE AMERICANS HOLLERING FOR CAPT. ROGERS' HEAD HAVE CREATED AN IRONIC ECHO OF THE STARK INCIDENT. THAT CAPTAIN WAS FORCED OUT OF THE NAVY FOR FAILING TO FIRE....THE WORLD CAN'T SIT BY. THAT NEAR-USELESS BODY, THE UNITED NATIONS, CAN'T JUST TWIDDLE ITS RHETORICAL THUMBS, NOT WHEN THE SPARKS FROM THIS CENTURY'S LONGEST WAR MAY BLOW UP MORE INNOCENT BYSTANDERS AT ANY MOMENT. WE HAVE BEEN WARNED."

7. THE FIRST ITEM ON THE WATER DIVERSION APPEARED IN THE TORONTO SUN ON JULY 9. IT WAS ENTITLED, "WATER, WATER, ANYWHERE?" "....ONCE AGAIN THE EYES OF MIDWESTERN AND WESTERN AMERICANS ARE ON THE TOPPED LAKES AND THE GREAT RIVERS THAT FLUSH FRESH WATER WESTERLY TO THE PACIFIC AND NORTHERLY TO THE ARCTIC OCEAN...BUT WHAT HAPPENS TO THE LEVELS OF THE GREAT LAKES SYSTEM IF THE LOCK IS OPENED AT CHICAGO? AND SHOULD THAT LOCK BE OPENED? THAT'S A QUESTION THAT WILL SOON BE DECIDED BY THE U.S. SUPREME COURT, NOT BY A MUTUAL AGREEMENT OF

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88OTTAWA005624

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GOVERNMENTS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER....

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8. "LURKING IN THE FILES OF THE CONGRESS OVER THE PAST

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THE WHITE HOUSE
AMCONSUL HALIFAX
AMCONSUL QUEBEC
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL TORONTO
AMCONSUL CALGARY
AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

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USIA

AGENCY FOR P/M (INFO P/R); P/GF; P/FW; P/FN; VOA/BXN;
P/PFE; EU
STATE FOR EUR/CAN; EUR/PA
WHITE HOUSE PASS NSC/WEUROPE

E.O. 12356 N/A
TAGS: ECPS, PREL, CA, IR

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION --SHOOTING DOWN OF IRANIAN

30 YEARS HAS BEEN A PLAN PUT FORWARD BY THE PARSONS
ENGINEERING GROUP OUT OF DENVER, COLO....IT IS HARD TO
SEE HOW A REVIVAL FOR SUPPORT FOR THE PARSONS PLAN CAN
BE AVOIDED IN CONGRESS IN THE PRESENCE OF THE CURRENT
DROUGHT....THERE MIGHT BE SOME WORTHWHILE POTENTIAL FOR
THE ROCKIES RESERVOIR SCHEME AND A PIPELINE OR (AS THE
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ROMANS DID IT) AQUEDUCTS DOWN INTO CALIFORNIA...."

9. THE ITEM IN THE TORONTO STAR ON JULY 9, "WATER OUR
DOWRY IN MARRIAGE TO U.S.", DEALT WITH WATER DIVERSIONS
AS PART OF FREE TRADE. "WITH NO END IN SIGHT TO THE
U.S. MIDWEST DROUGHT, IOWA CONGRESSMAN FRED GRANDY TOLD
MILLIONS OF AMERICANS TUNED INTO THE CABLE NEWS NETWORK
RECENTLY THAT SOMEDAY CANADA'S WATER WILL BE
THEIRS....NEXT DAY, ENVIRONMENT MINISTER TOM MCMILLAN

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TOLD MPS THAT GRANDY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT....

10. "TO PARAPHRASE MCMILLAN: CANADIANS DON'T NEED A MILLION LAWS TO PROTECT THEIR WATER FROM THIRSTY AMERICANS. WHAT THEY DO NEED, THOUGH, IS A STRAIGHTFORWARD AND SIMPLE EXEMPTION FOR WATER IN THE MULRONEY TRADE DEAL."

11. THE GLOBE AND MAIL CARRIED AN ITEM ABOUT WORLD DEBT ON JULY 11, TITLED, "A STRATEGY FOR DEBT." "....IF THE WORLD ECONOMY IS TO AVOID THE INSTABILITY OF UNILATERAL DECISIONS TO LIMIT OR SUSPEND PAYMENT...A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY IS NEEDED. THE WORLD BANK HAS BEEN ACCUSED IN THE PAST OF BEING PART OF THE PROBLEM, BUT IS NOW DEMONSTRATING IT CAN BE PART OF THE SOLUTION...."

12. "THE UNITED STATES HAS TRADITIONALLY DRAGGED ITS FEET ON DEBT REDUCTION, SHYING AWAY FROM WHAT IT PERCEIVED AS BANK BAILOUTS AND WRITE-DOWNS THAT LOOKED TO THREATEN ECONOMIC STABILITY. BUT THE WORLD BANK MAKES ONE THING CLEAR: WITH A HEAVILY INTERDEPENDENT WORLD ECONOMY, THERE IS MORE INSTABILITY IN SOARING DEBT AND STIFLED GROWTH THAN IN THE RETIRING OF SOME LOANS,
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MASSIVE THOUGH THEY ARE. AS THE WORLD'S LARGEST DEBTOR, WITH FOREIGN DEBT EQUAL TO 6.5 PER CENT OF GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT, THE UNITED STATES SHOULD NOT AVERT ITS EYES FROM THIS PAINFUL TRUTH."

13. THE TORONTO SUN'S WASHINGTON COLUMNIST, KATHY LEWIS, WROTE ABOUT BUSH'S CAMPAIGN JULY 10 IN "STRUGGLING TO EMBRACE BUSH." "....VICE PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH AND HIS CAMPAIGN ADVISERS MET PRESIDENT REAGAN AND HIS TOP WHITE HOUSE AIDES LAST WEEK TO DISCUSS REAGAN'S ROLE IN THE 1988 CAMPAIGN AND HOW EACH GROUP CAN AVOID SURPRISING THE OTHER. TO DATE, SUCH CO-OPERATION HAS BEEN ODDLY LACKING DESPITE THE FACT THAT AS PRESIDENTIAL-VICE PRESIDENTIAL RELATIONSHIPS GO, THIS HAS BEEN ONE OF THE BEST....

14. "THE BEST THING REAGAN CAN DO FOR BUSH IS TO MAKE SURE THE ECONOMY STAYS HEALTHY AND THAT THERE ARE NO MORE NEGATIVE FOREIGN POLICY SURPRISES OR SCANDALS BREWING IN HIS ADMINISTRATION."

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88STATE 228266

EXCISE

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PAGE 01 STATE 228266
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DRAFTED BY: IO/T:JAALLITTO

APPROVED BY: IO/SA:SKOTIS

IO/T:JABUCHE

EXCISE OF STATE 920393 IS, FPG/CDR P88 Date. 9/18/96

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FOLLOWING USUN NEW YORK 02122 DTD JULY 13 SENT ACTION SECSTATE
WASHDC INFO UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE AND GULF WAR
COLLECTIVE BEING REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ USUN NEW YORK 02122

E.O. 12356: DECL: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TAGS: PREL, UNSC, IR

SUBJECT: IRANAIR INCIDENT: SECURITY COUNCIL SIT REP,
- JULY 12

REF: WALTERS/ARMACOST TELCON

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY. SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON IRAN AIR
INCIDENT NOW SCHEDULED FOR 10:30 A.M. JULY 14. PRESIDENT
OF SC HAS CONVENED A MEETING OF SC AMBASSADORS AT 9:30
JULY 13, AT WHICH HE WILL ASK IF HE SHOULD PREPARE TEXT
OF A STATEMENT OR RESOLUTION ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL.
SYG BRIEFED AMBASSADOR WALTERS ON HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH

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THE IRANIANS. THE IRANIANS HAVE NOT MOBILIZED
NON-ALIGNED MEMBERS TO PRESENT A RESOLUTION ON THEIR
BEHALF. END SUMMARY.

3. CONTACT WITH SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT. AMBASSADOR
WALTERS SPOKE WITH SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT, BRAZILIAN
PERMREP NOGUEIRA-BATISTA. THE SC PRESIDENT INDICATED
THAT THE IRANIANS HAD SUGGESTED THAT HE TAKE THE LEAD IN
PREPARING A DRAFT FOR THE COUNCIL. HE HAD TOLD THE

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IRANIAN AMBASSADOR THAT HE COULD NOT DO SO WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION FROM THE COUNCIL. FOR THIS PURPOSE HE HAD ASKED THAT THE AMBASSADORS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS MEET IN HIS OFFICE ON JULY 13. AMBASSADOR WALTERS SAID HE HAS INSTRUCTIONS TO SUPPORT A COUNCIL STATEMENT THAT WOULD EXPRESS REGRET, SUPPORT ICAO INVESTIGATION AND REAFFIRM 598. WHEN THE SC PRESIDENT POINTED OUT THAT THE IRANIANS WERE DEMANDING A RESOLUTION, AMBASSADOR WALTERS REPEATED U.S. PREFERENCE FOR A STATEMENT BUT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE CONTENTS OF THE COUNCIL'S MESSAGE WOULD BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE ENVELOPE.

4. MEETING WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] "THE FACT CANNOT BE HIDDEN" THAT A DIFFICULT STRUGGLE HAD TAKEN PLACE WITH TEHRAN OVER THE REACTION TO THE DOWNING OF THE AIRBUS. [REDACTED] AND OTHERS WOULD CONTINUE EFFORTS TO "MELT THE ICE" WITH THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND TO COOPERATE WITH THE SYG.

5. [REDACTED] THAT IRAN'S APPROACH TO THE SC IN THE AIRBUS INCIDENT COULD BE IMPORTANT FOR 598. IRAN WANTED A GOOD DEBATE CAPPED WITH A GOOD RESOLUTION. IF

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THE SC TOOK IRAN'S SIDE, THE GOI WOULD NOT HAVE TO TAKE OTHER ACTION. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] HAD ADDED THAT "MAYBE THIS DRAMATIC INCIDENT COULD HELP IN GETTING IRAN AND THE U.S. TOGETHER." [REDACTED]

6. [REDACTED] PROPOSED THAT THE SITUATION IN THE GULF BE ADDRESSED BY A CEASE-FIRE IN THE GULF AND THE PORTS AROUND IT, A MEETING OF LITTORAL STATES UNDER UN AUSPICES, AND A REDUCTION OF THE PRESENCE OF FOREIGN NAVAL VESSELS TO EARLIER LEVELS. ON 598 [REDACTED] SAID IF A CEASE-FIRE WERE ACHIEVED, IT WOULD NOT BE BROKEN. HE URGED [REDACTED] A DATE FOR THE CEASE-FIRE AND THE START OF WORK OF THE IMPARTIAL BODY.

7. [REDACTED] VELAYATI NEEDED SOMETHING TO TAKE BACK TO TEHRAN. HOWEVER, EITHER A RESOLUTION OR A PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT WOULD HAVE TO MENTION 598. AMBASSADOR WALTERS SAID HIS INSTRUCTIONS ALLOWED HIM TO SUPPORT A PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT EXPRESSING REGRET OVER THE LOSS OF LIFE, SUPPORT FOR AN ICAO INVESTIGATION, AND REAFFIRMATION OF 598. AMBASSADOR WALTERS ASKED ABOUT THE HOSTAGES IN IRANIAN HANDS. [REDACTED] THE CASE OF [REDACTED] COL. HIGGINS WAS VERY MUCH ON HIS MIND AND THAT HE WOULD AGAIN

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APPEAL DIRECTLY TO VELAYATI FOR HIS RELEASE.

9. THE NON-ALIGNED: AMBASSADOR WALTERS MET WITH THE NON-ALIGNED COORDINATOR, YUGOSLAV PERMREP PEJIC. AMBASSADOR WALTERS SAID THAT IN MEETING WITH SC PRESIDENT JULY 13 HE HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO SUPPORT A SECURITY COUNCIL STATEMENT EXPRESSING REGRET FOR THE INCIDENT, SUPPORT FOR AN ICAO INVESTIGATION, AND REAFFIRMATION OF 598. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE WAY TO PREVENT RECURRENCE OF SUCH INCIDENTS IS TO END THE WAR IN COMPLIANCE WITH 598.

[REDACTED] THE NON-ALIGNED DO NOT INTEND TO PRODUCE A DRAFT THAT WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE VETOED. HE ALSO SAID YUGOSLAVIA WOULD NOT SPONSOR A TEXT THAT DID NOT REAFFIRM 598. [REDACTED] SAID HE ALSO REJECTED [REDACTED] SUGGESTION THAT THE NON-ALIGNED PRODUCE A TEXT, WITHOUT IRANIAN PARTICIPATION, THAT IRAN COULD LATER ATTACK. [REDACTED] SAID THE BEST WAY FORWARD WOULD BE TO ENTRUST THE SC PRESIDENT WITH THE TASK OF FINDING A SOLUTION ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS COULD SUPPORT.

11. USUN HAS HAD NUMEROUS CONTACTS DURING THE DAY WITH OTHER NON-ALIGNED DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING ARGENTINA,
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NEPAL, SENEGAL. THESE CONTACTS CONFIRMED THE STATE OF PLAY AS EXPLAINED BY AMBASSADOR [REDACTED] TO AMBASSADOR

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WALTERS.

12. MEETINGS WITH THE GERMANS AND JAPANESE: IN SEPARATE DISCUSSIONS WITH FRG CHARGE AND JAPANESE POLITICAL COUNSELOR, USUN POLMINCOUNS MADE CLEAR THAT USG FAVORED AN OUTCOME TO THE DEBATE IN WHICH ALL MEMBERS AGREED ON THE SAME TEXT. THE U.S. WANTED THIS TEXT TO BE IN THE FORM OF AN SC PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT. HOWEVER, SUBSTANCE WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE MATERIAL IN WHICH IT WAS WRAPPED. ELEMENTS WHICH THE U.S. COULD ACCEPT WERE CONTAINED IN THE TALKING POINTS MADE IN CAPITALS AND IN THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER. THE U.S. HOPED THAT IT COULD JOIN ALL OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL IN SUPPORTING THE OUTCOME. IF THE TEXT IS UNACCEPTABLE, THE U.S. WOULD VOTE AGAINST. THE USG COULD NOT ABSTAIN, BECAUSE PUBLIC OPINION WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND HOW THE U.S. HAD NO POSITION - EITHER FOR OR AGAINST - ON A MATTER OF VITAL IMPORTANCE.

13. BOTH GERMANS AND JAPANESE TOOK ON BOARD OUR REQUIREMENTS. THEY INDICATED, HOWEVER, AN SC PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT WAS NOT A VIABLE POSSIBILITY AND THAT THE ISSUE WAS WHETHER SOME MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL COULD DEVISE A RESOLUTION THAT WOULD SATISFY THE U.S. AND IRAN AT THE SAME TIME. THEY SPECULATED THAT THE SC PRESIDENT WOULD ATTEMPT TO DO JUST THIS BUT FEARED THAT HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO CONTROL THE SITUATION.

14. USUN POLMINCOUNS BRIEFED [REDACTED] ON U.S. POSITION. [REDACTED] JUDGED IT WAS "ABSOLUTELY UNREALISTIC" FOR THE U.S. TO DEMAND THAT THE COUNCIL ONLY ACT BY CONSENSUS IN THIS CASE, AND THAT IN EFFECT THE U.S. WOULD "SPLIT" THE COUNCIL.

15. OTHER: AS OF COB JULY 12 ONLY IRAN AND THE U.S. ARE
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INSCRIBED TO SPEAK IN THE DEBATE. USUN HAS CIRCULATED THE TEXT OF THE WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCEMENT ON EX GRATIA PAYMENTS AS A UN DOCUMENT(S/20005). THE JORDANIAN MISSION HAS CIRCULATED A STATEMENT BY THE SYG OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCED "DEPLORING THIS RECKLESS ATTACK." (S/20002).
WALTERS UNQUOTE WHITEHEAD

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EXCISE

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PAGE 01 USUN N 02122 01 OF 02 130048Z
ACTION IO-19

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-10	EUR-00	SS-00	OIC-02	AF-00
	CIAE-00	EB-00	DODE-00	H-01	MSC-01	NEA-06	NSCE-00
	ARA-00	NSAE-00	SSO-00	HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00	PM-10
	EAP-00	PA-01	OMB-01	INRE-00	ACDA-12	USIE-00	SP-02
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O 130041Z JUL 88
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6785
INFO UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
GULFWAR COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 02122E.O. 12356: DECL: ~~OADR~~

TAGS: PREL, UNSC, IR

SUBJECT: IRANAIR INCIDENT: SECURITY COUNCIL SIT REP,
- JULY 12

REF: WALTERS/ARMACOST TELCON

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY. SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON IRAN AIR INCIDENT NOW SCHEDULED FOR 10:30 A.M. JULY 14. PRESIDENT OF SC HAS CONVENED A MEETING OF SC AMBASSADORS AT 9:30 JULY 13, AT WHICH HE WILL ASK IF HE SHOULD PREPARE TEXT OF A STATEMENT OR RESOLUTION ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL. SYG BRIEFED AMBASSADOR WALTERS ON HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE IRANIANS. THE IRANIANS HAVE NOT MOBILIZED NON-ALIGNED MEMBERS TO PRESENT A RESOLUTION ON THEIR BEHALF. END SUMMARY.

3. CONTACT WITH SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT. AMBASSADOR WALTERS SPOKE WITH SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT, BRAZILIAN

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PAGE 02 USUN N 02122 01 OF 02 130048Z

PERMREP NOGUEIRA-BATISTA. THE SC PRESIDENT INDICATED THAT THE IRANIANS HAD SUGGESTED THAT HE TAKE THE LEAD IN PREPARING A DRAFT FOR THE COUNCIL. HE HAD TOLD THE IRANIAN AMBASSADOR THAT HE COULD NOT DO SO WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION FROM THE COUNCIL. FOR THIS PURPOSE HE HAD ASKED THAT THE AMBASSADORS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS MEET IN HIS OFFICE ON JULY 13. AMBASSADOR WALTERS SAID HE HAS INSTRUCTIONS TO SUPPORT A COUNCIL STATEMENT THAT WOULD EXPRESS REGRET, SUPPORT ICAO INVESTIGATION AND REAFFIRM

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE 920393		IS/FPC/CDR	Date: 9/16/96
() RELEASE	() DECLASSIFY	MR Cases Only:	
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598. WHEN THE SC PRESIDENT POINTED OUT THAT THE IRANIANS WERE DEMANDING A RESOLUTION, AMBASSADOR WALTERS REPEATED U.S. PREFERENCE FOR A STATEMENT BUT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE CONTENTS OF THE COUNCIL'S MESSAGE WOULD BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE ENVELOPE.

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5. [REDACTED] THAT IRAN'S APPROACH TO THE SC IN THE AIRBUS INCIDENT COULD BE IMPORTANT FOR 598. IRAN WANTED A GOOD DEBATE CAPPED WITH A GOOD RESOLUTION. IF THE SC TOOK IRAN'S SIDE, THE GOI WOULD NOT HAVE TO TAKE OTHER ACTION.

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PAGE 03 USUN N 02122 01 OF 02 130048Z

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PAGE 01 USUN N 02122 02 OF 02 130049Z
 ACTION IO-19

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-10	EUR-00	SS-00	OIC-02	AF-00
	CIAE-00	EB-00	DODE-00	H-01	MSC-01	NEA-06	NSCE-00
	ARA-00	NSAE-00	SSO-00	HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00	PM-10
	EAP-00	PA-01	OMB-01	INRE-00	ACDA-12	USIE-00	SP-02
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 FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6786
 INFO UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
 GULFWAR COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 02122

E.O. 12356: DECL: ~~SECRET~~
 TAGS: PREL, UNSC, IR
 SUBJECT: IRANAIR INCIDENT: SECURITY COUNCIL SIT REP,

9. THE NON-ALIGNED: AMBASSADOR WALTERS MET WITH THE NON-ALIGNED COORDINATOR, YUGOSLAV PERMREP PEJIC. AMBASSADOR WALTERS SAID THAT IN MEETING WITH SC PRESIDENT JULY 13 HE HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO SUPPORT A SECURITY COUNCIL STATEMENT EXPRESSING REGRET FOR THE INCIDENT, SUPPORT FOR AN ICAO INVESTIGATION, AND REAFFIRMATION OF 598. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE WAY TO PREVENT RECURRENCE OF SUCH INCIDENTS IS TO END THE WAR IN COMPLIANCE WITH 598.

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11. USUN HAS HAD NUMEROUS CONTACTS DURING THE DAY WITH OTHER NON-ALIGNED DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING ARGENTINA, NEPAL, SENEGAL. THESE CONTACTS CONFIRMED THE STATE OF PLAY AS EXPLAINED BY AMBASSADOR [REDACTED] TO AMBASSADOR WALTERS.

12. MEETINGS WITH THE GERMANS AND JAPANESE: IN SEPARATE DISCUSSIONS WITH FRG CHARGE AND JAPANESE POLITICAL COUNSELOR, USUN POLMINCOUNS MADE CLEAR THAT USG FAVORED AN OUTCOME TO THE DEBATE IN WHICH ALL MEMBERS AGREED ON THE SAME TEXT. THE U.S. WANTED THIS TEXT TO BE IN THE FORM OF AN SC PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT. HOWEVER, SUBSTANCE WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE MATERIAL IN WHICH IT WAS WRAPPED. ELEMENTS WHICH THE U.S. COULD ACCEPT WERE CONTAINED IN THE TALKING POINTS MADE IN CAPITALS AND IN THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER. THE U.S. HOPED THAT IT COULD JOIN ALL OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL IN SUPPORTING THE OUTCOME. IF THE TEXT IS UNACCEPTABLE, THE U.S. WOULD VOTE AGAINST. THE USG COULD NOT ABSTAIN, BECAUSE PUBLIC OPINION WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND HOW THE U.S. HAD NO POSITION - EITHER FOR OR AGAINST - ON A MATTER OF VITAL IMPORTANCE.

13. BOTH GERMANS AND JAPANESE TOOK ON BOARD OUR
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PAGE 03 USUN N 02122 02 OF 02 130049Z

REQUIREMENTS. THEY INDICATED, HOWEVER, AN SC PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT WAS NOT A VIABLE POSSIBILITY AND THAT THE ISSUE WAS WHETHER SOME MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL COULD DEVISE A RESOLUTION THAT WOULD SATISFY THE U.S. AND IRAN AT THE SAME TIME. THEY SPECULATED THAT THE SC PRESIDENT WOULD ATTEMPT TO DO JUST THIS BUT FEARED THAT HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO CONTROL THE SITUATION.

14. USUN POLMINCOUNS BRIEFED [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] ON U.S. POSITION. [REDACTED] JUDGED IT WAS "ABSOLUTELY UNREALISTIC" FOR THE U.S. TO DEMAND THAT THE COUNCIL ONLY ACT BY CONSENSUS IN THIS CASE, AND THAT IN EFFECT THE U.S. WOULD "SPLIT" THE COUNCIL.

15. OTHER: AS OF COB JULY 12 ONLY IRAN AND THE U.S. ARE INSCRIBED TO SPEAK IN THE DEBATE. USUN HAS CIRCULATED THE TEXT OF THE WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCEMENT ON EX GRATIA PAYMENTS AS A UN DOCUMENT(S/20005). THE JORDANIAN MISSION HAS CIRCULATED A STATEMENT BY THE SYG OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE "DEPLORING THIS RECKLESS ATTACK." (S/20002).
WALTERS

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ACTION IO-19

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	EUR-00	SS-00	OIC-02	AF-00	DODE-00
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6765
INFO UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
GULFWAR COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 03 USUN NEW YORK 02105E.O. 12356: DECL: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TAGS: PREL, UNSC, IR

SUBJECT: UNSC: IRANAIR 655 INCIDENT -- JULY 11 UPDATE

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: AT SC PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE AND WITH U.S. AND IRANIAN CONCURRENCE, DEBATE ON IRANIAN COMPLAINT HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL AFTERNOON JULY 14. IRANIAN INTENTIONS STILL REMAIN CLOUDED BECAUSE THEY CONTINUE TO TELL SOME SC MEMBERS PRIVATELY THAT THEY MIGHT POSSIBLY ACCEPT A CONSTRUCTIVE OUTCOME TO THE DEBATE, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME THEY MAINTAIN THEIR PUBLIC POSITION THAT THE U.S. MUST BE CONDEMNED IN A RESOLUTION. VELAYATI HAS ARRIVED BUT HAS NOT ENGAGED IN SUBSTANTIVE CONTACTS. THERE IS STILL NO PIECE OF PAPER CIRCULATING.

3. WE HAVE REITERATED TO MANY SC MEMBERS THE OUTLINE OF AN SC PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT ACCEPTABLE TO US BUT HAVE REFUSED TO BE DRAWN INTO ANY NEGOTIATION, HOWEVER INDIRECT, OF ANY RESOLUTION, AND HAVE DISCOURAGED OUR CLOSEST ALLIES--UK AND FRANCE--FROM DOING SO AS WELL.

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SOVIETS AND CHINESE ARE TAKING VERY PASSIVE AND LOW-KEY APPROACH, BUT HINT THAT IF CONDEMNATORY RESOLUTION WERE TO SURFACE, THEY MIGHT SUPPORT IT. END SUMMARY.

4. MEETING WITH SC PRESIDENT: AMBASSADOR WALTERS MET EVENING JULY 10 AND AFTERNOON JULY 11 WITH SC PRESIDENT NOGUEIRA-BATISTA. AT SECOND MEETING, NOGUEIRA-BATISTA SUGGESTED THAT THE DEBATE BE

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POSTPONED UNTIL AFTERNOON OF JULY 14 IN ORDER TO ALLOW A LONGER COOLING-OFF PERIOD AND TO PERMIT HIM AND OTHERS TO SEARCH FOR A CONSTRUCTIVE OUTCOME OF THE DEBATE. IRANIANS HAD NO OBJECTION TO THIS. AMBASSADOR WALTERS AGREED TO THE POSTPONEMENT. NOGUEIRA-BATISTA WAS STILL UNCERTAIN ABOUT IRANIAN INTENTIONS, BUT HOPED TO CLARIFY THEM IN HIS JULY 12 MORNING MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER VELAYATI, WHO ARRIVED IN NEW YORK AFTERNOON JULY 11.

5. MEETING OF THE FIVE PERMS: AT SUGGESTION OF UK ACTING PERMREP, AMBASSADORS OF THE FIVE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL MET AFTERNOON OF JULY 11 TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THE UPCOMING DEBATE ON THE IRANIAN COMPLAINT. BEFORE THE MEETING STARTED, AMBASSADOR WALTERS HAD A PRIVATE WORD SEPARATELY WITH BOTH CHINESE PERMREP LI AND SOVIET ACTING PERMREP LOZINSKIY. HE URGED THEM TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT IN THE DEBATE AND TO AVOID ADOPTING POSITIONS WITH REGARD TO THE INCIDENT THAT MIGHT DEFLECT ATTENTION FROM OR OTHERWISE IMPEDE IMPLEMENTATION OF SC RES 598. NEITHER SOVIET NOR CHINESE MADE ANY SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSE.

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6. OPENING THE MEETING, UK REP ASSUMED THAT ALL FIVE AGREED THAT (A) THE INCIDENT HAD OCCURRED BECAUSE OF THE ONGOING CONFLICT BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ AND (B) 598 WAS STILL THE WAY TO END THIS CONFLICT. ALTHOUGH THE FIVE MIGHT ADOPT DIFFERENT POSITIONS DURING WHAT COULD BE A DIFFICULT SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE, THEY SHOULD



7. AMBASSADOR WALTERS NOTED THE U.S. DECISION TO MAKE EX GRATIA PAYMENTS TO THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS. HE INDICATED THAT THE U.S. STATEMENT IN THE DEBATE WOULD REGRET THE INCIDENT AND THE LOSS OF INNOCENT LIVES, EXPRESS WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH THE ICAO INVESTIGATION, NOTE THAT THE U.S. WAS CONDUCTING ITS OWN INVESTIGATION, AND EMPHASIZE THAT THE BEST WAY TO AVOID REPETITION OF THE INCIDENT WAS TO END THE WAR. THE U.S. WOULD AVOID DISCUSSING THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE INCIDENT UNTIL ITS OWN INQUIRY WAS COMPLETED.

8. BOTH SOVIETS AND CHINESE SAID THAT THEY STILL WERE UNCERTAIN ABOUT HOW THE IRANIANS WOULD APPROACH THE DEBATE OR WHAT THEY WOULD SEEK AS AN OUTCOME. THE SOVIETS SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT BE BEST TO AVOID DISCUSSING THE WIDER ASPECTS OF THE CONFLICT IN THE

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DEBATE IN ORDER NOT TO PRODUCE DIFFERENT
INTERPRETATIONS OF 598 AND A PUBLIC DISPLAY OF
DISUNITY AMONG THE FIVE.

9. CHINESE AMBASSADOR LI ACKNOWLEDGED THE IMPORTANCE
OF THE UNITY OF THE FIVE IN WORKING FOR THE

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ACTION IO-19

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	EUR-00	SS-00	OIC-02	AF-00	DODE-00
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	EAP-00	SP-02	C-01	P-02	/046 W		

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O 120227Z JUL 88
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6766
INFO UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
GULFWAR COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 03 USUN NEW YORK 02105

E.O. 12356: DECL: ~~OADR~~
TAGS: PREL, UNSC, IR
SUBJECT: UNSC: IRANAIR 655 INCIDENT -- JULY 11 UPDATE

IMPLEMENTATION OF 598 AND SAID THAT THEIR STATEMENT WOULD EMPHASIZE THAT THE WAR SHOULD BE HALTED. IF AND WHEN A RESOLUTION EMERGED, THE CHINESE WOULD SEE WHETHER IT WAS POSSIBLE TO WORK OUT A COMMON POSITION AMONG THE FIVE, BUT WOULD NOT COMMIT THEMSELVES IN ADVANCE TO VOTING IN A WAY THAT WOULD PRESERVE THE UNITY OF THE FIVE.

10. FRENCH REP SAID THAT THE FIVE SHOULD AT LEAST AGREE THAT THE INCIDENT DEMONSTRATED THE NEED FOR FULL AND RAPID IMPLEMENTATION OF 598. NOTING THAT THE EXCHANGE HAD BEEN USEFUL EVEN THOUGH NO CONCLUSIONS HAD BEEN REACHED, UK REP THEN PROPOSED TO BRIEF THE SYG ON THIS DISCUSSION AND TO SUGGEST TO HIM THAT THE FIVE WERE PREPARED TO MEET WITH HIM BEFORE THE DEBATE. AS THERE WERE NO OBJECTIONS TO THIS APPROACH, UK WAS ATTEMPTING TO SET UP A MEETING WITH THE SYG.

11. MEETING WITH UK AND FRANCE: SUBSEQUENT TO
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MEETING OF THE FIVE PERMS, USUN POLMINCOUNS MET WITH HIS UK AND FRENCH COUNTERPARTS TO EXPLORE IRANIAN TACTICS AND COORDINATE APPROACH TO THE DEBATE. WE AGREED THAT IRANIAN INTENTIONS WERE STILL UNCLEAR AND THAT THEY WERE PUBLICLY MAINTAINING THEIR COMMITMENT TO A HARD-LINE RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE U.S. AND CALLING FOR WITHDRAWAL OF THE U.S. NAVY FROM THE GULF.

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12. USUN POLMINCOUNS REAFFIRMED U.S. WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT A PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT ALONG LINES CONTAINED IN TALKING POINTS MADE IN SC CAPITALS. HE NOTED THAT U.S. STILL CONTINUED TO OPPOSE A RESOLUTION ON BOTH PROCEDURAL AND SUBSTANTIVE GROUNDS. THE IRANIANS WERE HAVING GREAT DIFFICULTY IN PERSUADING ANY SC DELEGATION TO EMBRACE A HARD-LINE RESOLUTION. IF A MILD ONE ENDORSED BY WESTERN SC MEMBERS WERE TO SURFACE AT THIS POINT, THE IRANIANS WOULD IMMEDIATELY BEGIN WORKING ON THE NON-ALIGNED TO TOUGHEN IT TO THE POINT WHERE IT WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE TO THE U.S. AND ITS ALLIES

14. CONTACTS WITH OTHER SC MEMBERS: IN CONTACTS WITH OTHER SC MEMBERS, USUN HAS REPEATED WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER A PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT BUT NOT A RESOLUTION. MISOFFS FROM FRG, JAPAN, AND ITALY HAVE TAKEN THIS POSITION ON BOARD, BUT POINTED OUT THAT IRANIANS CAN BE COUNTED ON TO DEMAND A RESOLUTION. THE NON-ALIGNED HAVE ALSO POINTED AT THE IRANIAN PREFERENCE FOR A RESOLUTION, BUT HAVE ADDED THAT MOST MEMBERS OF THE NON-ALIGNED CAUCUS INSIST THAT THE IRANIANS PRODUCE A DRAFT BEFORE THE CAUCUS CONSIDERS THE MATTER FURTHER.

15. INFORMED US OF RECEIPT OF INSTRUCTIONS TO SUPPORT A DRAFT PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT WHICH WOULD EXPRESS REGRET FOR THE LOSS OF LIFE, SUPPORT AN INVESTIGATION BY THE SYG AS WELL AS ICAO AND REFER FAVORABLY TO THE U.S. OFFER OF EX GRATIA PAYMENTS, BUT WOULD NOT/NOT INCLUDE ANY REFERENCE TO 598. HE INDICATED THAT FRG AND ITALIAN MISSIONS, DRAWING ON THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE WESTERN SPONSORED DRAFT RESOLUTION AT THE TIME OF THE KAL FLIGHT 007 DEBATE, WERE URGING OTHER SC DELEGATIONS TO LIMIT THE OUTCOME OF THE IRAN AIR DEBATE TO THESE POINTS. HE

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ADDED THAT IRANIAN INTENTIONS REMAINED UNCLEAR. USUN
DEPUTY POLCOUNS REITERATED THAT U.S. COULD ACCEPT A
PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT AS THE OUTCOME OF DEBATE BUT
ARGUED AGAINST THE INCLUSION IN IT OF ANY REFERENCE TO
AN INVESTIGATION BY THE SYG. HE EMPHASIZED THE
IMPORTANCE OF INCLUDING IN A STATEMENT A CALL FOR FULL

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ACTION IO-19

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	EUR-00	SS-00	OIC-02	AF-00	DODE-00
	H-01	NEA-06	NSCE-00	ARA-00	SSO-00	L-03	PM-10
	EAP-00	SP-02	C-01	P-02	/046 W		

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O 120227Z JUL 88
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6767
INFO UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
GULFWAR COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 03 OF 03 USUN NEW YORK 02105

E.O. 12356: DECL: ~~OADR~~
TAGS: PREL, UNSC, IR
SUBJECT: UNSC: IRANAIR 655 INCIDENT -- JULY 11 UPDATE

IMPLEMENTATION OF 598.

16. [REDACTED] DELEGATIONS INDICATE THAT
IRANIANS HAVE ASKED THEM TO SPEAK BUT THAT THEY ARE
RELUCTANT TO DO SO. MALAYSIAN DELEGATE TOLD US THAT
IF HIS DELEGATION SPEAKS, IT WILL CALL FOR
IMPLEMENTATION OF 598, REDUCED MILITARY ACTIVITY IN
THE GULF AND A GREATER UN ROLE THERE.

17. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR THAT ALL SC MEMBERS ARE
STILL CONFUSED ABOUT IRAN'S REAL INTENTIONS, AND WILL
NOT WORK ACTIVELY ON BEHALF OF ANY RESOLUTION UNTIL
SUCH INTENTIONS BECOME CLEAR. MOST SC MEMBERS WILL
CONTINUE TO SHOW CAUTION IN RESPONDING TO THE
IRANIANS, CERTAINLY UP TO THE POINT THAT THE IRANIANS
GIVE CLEAR EVIDENCE NOT JUST OF THEIR OPENING POSITION
BUT ALSO THEIR BOTTOM LINE. HOWEVER, SOME SC MEMBERS,
SUCH AS THE FRG AND ITALY, SEEM SO IMPRESSED BY THE
IRANIAN WILLINGNESS TO TAKE A COMPLAINT TO THE

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SECURITY COUNCIL THAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO TRY TO FIND
SOME WAY TO PROVIDE THE IRANIANS WITH MINIMAL
SATISFACTION IN ORDER TO KEEP THEM INVOLVED WITH THE
COUNCIL. FROM THIS STEMS THEIR APPARENT EFFORT TO
SOUND OUT OTHER SC MEMBERS ON A POSSIBLE RESOLUTION
WHICH WOULD EMBODY MOST OF WHAT WE HAVE INDICATED
WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE IN A STATEMENT, BUT WHICH WOULD
EXPLICITLY AVOID ANY REFERENCE TO SC 598 AS SUCH. END
COMMENT.

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88USUN N002105

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EXCISE

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PAGE 01 USUN N 02095 01 OF 02 092007Z
ACTION IO-19

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-10	EUR-00	SS-00	OIC-02	AF-00
	CIAE-00	DODE-00	H-01	NEA-06	NSCE-00	ARA-00	NSAE-00
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6755
INFO UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
GULFWAR COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 02095

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, UNSC, IR
SUBJECT: UNSC: IRANAIR 655 INCIDENT -- JULY 9 UPDATE

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. MOOD: ON THE EVE OF VELAYATI'S ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK, THE VAGUE, BUT DOMINANT MOOD AMONG MEMBERS OF THE SC IS TO "DO SOMETHING" FOR IRAN AND "NOT LET VELAYATI GO AWAY EMPTY-HANDED." THIS MOOD REFLECTS SOME SYMPATHY FOR IRAN BECAUSE OF THE INCIDENT. EVEN MORE, IT REFLECTS A HOPE THAT IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO ENGAGE IRAN IN IMPLEMENTING 598 NOW THAT IT HAS FINALLY COME TO THE SC.

3. IRANIAN INTENTIONS: IRANIAN INTENTIONS ARE NOT CLEAR. ON THE ONE HAND, ACTING PERMREP MAHALLATI IS TAKING A TOUGH LINE IN PUBLIC AND IN PRIVATE WITH SC MEMBERS. HE HAS DEMANDED A RESOLUTION THAT WOULD (A) CONDEMN THE DOWNING OF THE IRAN AIRPLANE BY THE U.S.; (B) CALL FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES FROM THE GULF; AND (C) INCLUDE MEASURES TO PREVENT THE

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RECURRENCE OF SUCH AN INCIDENT.

4. AN IRANIAN DATAFAX CIRCULATED TO SOME SC MISSIONS EVENING JULY 8 POINTS OUT A LONG SERIES OF "CONTRADICTIONS AND INCONSISTENCIES IN AMERICAN JUSTIFICATIONS" FOR SHOOTING DOWN THE AIRPLANE. PAPER CONCLUDES THAT THE EVIDENCE CLEARLY SUGGESTS THAT THE U.S. "INITIATED HOSTILITIES JULY 2 AND 3 WITH THE CLEAR INTENTION OF CARRYING OUT UNPROVOKED AGGRESSION

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AGAINST" IRAN AND THAT SHOOTING DOWN OF THE AIRCRAFT "COULD NOT HAVE BEEN A MISTAKE." IT DEMANDS A RESOLUTION ALONG THE LINES REFERRED TO IN PARA 3.

5. ON THE OTHER HAND, IRAN HAS REPORTEDLY TAKEN A MORE MODERATE LINE IN SOME CONVERSATIONS AND LED SOME DELEGATIONS TO WONDER WHETHER IT MIGHT BE ABLE TO ACCEPT A RESOLUTION THAT DID NOT CONDEMN THE U.S. OR THE INCIDENT ITSELF.

6. THE SECURITY COUNCIL LINEUP:

-- USSR: THE SOVIETS (AS WELL AS THE CHINESE) HAVE BEEN SITTING BACK AND WATCHING DEVELOPMENTS THUS FAR IN NEW YORK.

-- UK AND FRANCE: ALTHOUGH BOTH HAVE INDICATED THEIR DESIRE TO BE HELPFUL, THEY TOO INDICATE CONCERN THAT AN EFFORT BE MADE TO FIND "SOMETHING" THAT WILL ENTICE IRAN INTO WORKING WITH THE SC ON 598.

-- FRG/ITALY/JAPAN: THE FRG MISSION APPEARS INTERESTED IN SOME SORT OF SELF-APPOINTED INTERMEDIARY ROLE, BUT HAS INDICATED IT COULD NOT SUPPORT ANY CONDEMNATION OF THE U.S. ITALY AND JAPAN ARE UNEASY.

-- NAM: NAM SC MEMBERS HAVE TAKEN A GENERALLY CAUTIOUS APPROACH BUT CLEARLY WISH TO FIND SOMETHING FOR VELAYATI TO TAKE AWAY WITH HIM.

7. WHERE WE STAND: IN SPITE OF SYMPATHY FOR IRAN OVER THE DOWNING OF THE AIRLINER, AND A DESIRE TO FIND SOME WAY TO KEEP THEM ENGAGED WITH THE COUNCIL, WE ARE NOT BADLY POSITIONED. ASPECTS OF OUR REACTION HAVE WORKED TO OUR ADVANTAGE, IN PARTICULAR THE PRESIDENT'S EXPRESSION OF REGRET, THE ANTICIPATION THAT WE WILL

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MAKE EX GRATIA PAYMENTS, AND OUR ACCEPTANCE OF THE ICAO INVESTIGATION. LIKE OURSELVES, MOST COUNCIL MEMBERS WANT TO PUT THIS INCIDENT BEHIND THEM.

8. THE IRANIANS WILL HAVE NO AUTOMATIC MAJORITY FOR THEIR MAXIMALIST DEMANDS. MUCH WILL DEPEND ON WHAT COURSE OF ACTION VELAYATI DECIDES ON: THE MORE HE DEMANDS THE LESS SUPPORT HE WILL GAIN IN THE COUNCIL.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~PAGE 01 USUN N 02095 02 OF 02 092007Z
ACTION IO-19

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-10	EUR-00	SS-00	OIC-02	AF-00
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	SSO-00	PM-10	EAP-00	AIT-02	PA-01	INRE-00	SP-02
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O 091956Z JUL 88
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6756
INFO UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
GULFWAR COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 02095

A MODERATE STANCE WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT TO COUNTER,
BUT IT SEEMS QUESTIONABLE WHETHER TEHRAN WOULD ENDORSE
SUCH A COURSE OF ACTION.
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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88DHAHRA001415

EXCISE

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PAGE 01 DHAHRA 01415 01 OF 03 111219Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-00 SS-00 OIC-02 AF-00
CIAE-00 EB-00 DODE-00 H-01 IO-19 NSCE-00 ARA-00
NSAE-00 COME-00 L-03 PM-10 EAP-00 PA-01 FAAE-00
DOTE-00 STR-17 INRE-00 OCS-06 CA-02 ANAE-00 ACDA-12
USIE-00 JUSE-00 SP-02 C-01 PRS-01 DS-01 DSE-00
E-01 P-02 T-01 /103 W

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R 111140Z JUL 88
FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7970
INFO GULF WAR COLLECTIVE
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 03 DHAHRAN 01415

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, MOPS, ASEC, EAIR, SA
SUBJECT: REACTION TO IRAN AIR - 655 TRAGEDY WITHIN
-- SAUDI ARABIA'S EASTERN PROVINCE

1. ~~ENTIRE~~ ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: THE RESULTS OF DHAHRAN'S INITIAL
SURVEY OF LOCAL REACTION TO IRAN AIR 655 TRAGEDY
INDICATES THAT EXECUTIVE-LEVEL U.S. EXPATS
AND SUNNIS ACCEPT U.S. EXPLANATION OF TRAGEDY
AS A REGRETTABLE BUT UNDERSTANDABLE ACCIDENT.
MOST HOLD IRANIANS EQUALLY IF NOT MORE RESPONSIBLE
FOR ALLOWING CIVILIAN AIRLINER TO FLY INTO COMBAT
ZONE AND FOR REFUSING TO BRING WAR TO AN END.
EVEN THEY NONETHELESS FIND IT DIFFICULT TO
UNDERSTAND HOW WHY THE MOST SOPHISTICATED SHIP IN THE
U.S. GULF FLEET COULD FAIL TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN

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AN AIRBUS AND AN F-14. IN SHARP CONTRAST CONTACTS
WITHIN THE SHIA COMMUNITY REPORT WIDE-SPREAD ACCEPTANCE OF
IRANIAN (NON-ACCIDENTAL) VERSION, WHICH
IS BEAMED INTO THE EASTERN PROVINCE AT PRIME TIME
BY IRANIAN T.V. AND RADIO. SHIA CONTACTS CAUTIONED
THAT WHILE AMICTS ARE STILL WELCOME AS INDIVIDUALS
TO VISIT SHIA COMMUNITIES, CONSULATE VEHICLES WITH
THEIR DISTINCTIVE GREEN DIPLOMATIC LICENSE PLATES
SHOULD AVOID SUCH AREAS. THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88DHAHRA001415

TRAGEDY ON ASHURA, ACCORDING TO LOCAL SHIA CONTACTS, "DEPENDS UPON HOW THE HAJJ GOES" AND HOW THE SAG DEALS WITH THE SHIA COMMUNITY. END SUMMARY.

3. CONGEN OFFICERS UTILIZED FAMILIARIZATION TRIP TO JUBAIL ON JULY 6 AND LUNCHEON INVITATION TO THE SHIA ISLAND OF TARUT ON JULY 7, ALONG WITH OTHER ROUTINE INDIVIDUAL CONTACTS, TO SURVEY LOCAL REACTIONS TO THE IRANIAN AIR TRAGEDY. OWING TO THE AD HOC AND VERY LIMITED SCOPE OF THE SURVEY, THE FOLLOWING RESULTS SHOULD BE VIEWED AS MERELY INDICATIVE AND BY NO MEANS COMPREHENSIVE OR CONCLUSIVE.

4. THE REACTION OF EXECUTIVE-LEVEL U.S. EXPATS AND SUNNIS AT JUBAIL WAS STRIKINGLY SIMILAR IN THAT BOTH ACCEPTED THE U.S. EXPLANATION OF THE TRAGEDY AS AN UNFORTUNATE BUT UNDERSTANDABLE ACCIDENT. BOTH GROUPS HELD THE IRANIANS EQUALLY, IF NOT MORE, RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TRAGEDY BY PROVOKING THE INITIAL LOCAL HOSTILITIES, PERMITTING CIVIL AIRLINER TO FLY INTO A COMBAT ZONE, AND PROLONGING THE WAR. THE SUNNIS WERE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT THE TRAGEDY NOT WEAKEN U.S. RESOLVE TO STAY IN THE

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GULF. CG ASSURED THEM THIS WAS NOT THE CASE BY QUOTING THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS ON THE SUBJECT. BOTH U.S. EXPATS AND SUNNIS FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT THE MOST SOPHISTICATED SHIP IN THE U.S. GULF FLEET COULD FAIL TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN A CIVILIAN AIRBUS AND AN F-14. THE CG'S EXPLANATION OF THE LIMITED DATA DISPLAYED ON RADAR SCREENS AND AMBIGUITIES IN IRANIAN AIRCRAFT'S APPROACH APPEARED TO ALLEVIATE BUT DID NOT ENTIRELY DISPEL EITHER GROUP'S PERPLEXITY. REFLECTING WHAT WE BELIEVE MAY BE A STRONG MINORITY VIEW, ONE

5. IN SHARP CONTRAST, CONTACTS WITHIN THE SHIA COMMUNITY INDICATE THAT THE SHIA GENERALLY ACCEPT THE IRANIAN VERSION THAT THE TRAGEDY WAS NOT AN ACCIDENT, BUT RATHER A DELIBERATE ATTACK AGAINST A CIVILIAN AIRLINER. THESE CONTACTS MAINTAIN THAT THE TRAGEDY IS PERCEIVED BY LOCAL SHIA AS SIMPLY THE MOST RECENT EPISODE IN A SERIES OF TELL-TALE EVENTS (SUCH AS THE IRAQI ATTACK ON THE FAW PENINSULA IN APRIL AND THE SIMULTANEOUS U.S. NAVAL ENCOUNTER WITH THE IRANIAN NAVY)

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DEMONSTRATING THAT THE USG IS WORKING HAND-IN-HAND
WITH IRAQ TO DEFEAT IRAN.

6. THE MOST COMMON RATIONALES GIVEN BY LOCAL SHIA
FOR THE ALLEGEDLY INTENTIONAL DOWNING OF THE
CIVILIAN AIRBUS ARE, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES,
EITHER FEAR OF TANGLING WITH IRAN'S ARMED FORCES
OR AN EFFORT TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM IRAN'S DISPUTE
WITH SAUDI ARABIA OVER THE HAJJ. HENCE THEY

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PAGE 01 DHAHRA 01415 02 OF 03 111211Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-10	EUR-00	SS-00	OIC-02	AF-00
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	DOTE-00	STR-17	SVC-00	INRE-00	OCS-06	CA-02	ANAE-00
	ACDA-12	USIE-00	JUSE-00	SP-02	C-01	PRS-01	DS-01
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R 111140Z JUL 88
FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7971
INFO RUEHWY GTCGULF WAR COLLECTIVE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
CJTFME
USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 03 DHAHRAN 01415

E.O. 12356: DECL: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
TAGS: PREL, MOPS, ASEC, EAIR, SA
SUBJECT: REACTION TO IRAN AIR - 655 TRAGEDY WITHIN

ALSO PERCEIVE A SAG CONNECTION TO THE DOWNING.
ONE SHIA CONTACT TOLD THE CG THAT P9 (##)
(##) WAY HE
WELCOMED THE TRAGEDY SINCE IT MEANT THAT AT LONG
LAST THE U.S. WAS SHOWING ITS TRUE COLORS. AN
EXPATRIATE SOURCE TOLD US THAT AMONG HIS SHIA
FELLOW WORKERS AT RAS TANURA, REACTION TO NEWS OF
TRAGEDY WAS ACTUAL GLEE. THESE SHIA READILY
RECOGNIZED POLITICAL AND PROPAGANDA ADVANTAGES TO
IRAN OF U.S. ACT AND EXPRESSED HOPE IRAN NOW WOULD
GAIN WIDESPREAD SYMPATHY TO OFFSET ITS SERIES OF
BATTLEFIELD DEFEATS. LIKE SUNNIS, SHIA ALSO
FIND IT DIFFICULT TO COMPREHEND FAILURE OF
USS VINCENNES TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN AIRBUS AND

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FIGHTER PLANE. HENCE, THEIR CONCLUSION THAT
U.S. ACTION, IF NOT MALICIOUS, WAS AT BEST GROSSLY
NEGLIGENT.

--
7. OUR SHIA CONTACTS ADD THAT THEIR COMMUNITY'S
DISTRUST OF THE USG'S MOTIVATIONS AND OBJECTIVES
IN THE GULF WAR IS BEING EXPLOITED AND EXACERBATED
BY IRANIAN RADIO AND T.V. BROADCASTS BEAMED
INTO THE EASTERN PROVINCE (EP) TWICE DAILY AT PRIME

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TIMES. SINCE THE TRAGEDY, THE FOCUS OF THE BROADCASTS HAS REPORTEDLY SHIFTED FROM THE HAJJ TO FEATURING GRAPHIC SCENES OF MUTILATED BODIES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN RECOVERED FROM THE GULF. ANOTHER COMMON SCENE, REPORTEDLY SHOWN ON GULF NEWS BROADCASTS, IS THAT OF U.S. SAILORS ON THE VINCENNES JUBILANTLY CELEBRATING THE DOWNING OF THE AIRCRAFT (WHICH AT THE TIME THE CREW, OF COURSE, THOUGHT WAS AN F-14). ONE CONTACT POINTED TO POOR IMPRESSION REPETITION OF THIS FILM CLIP GIVES OF U.S. NAVY'S REACTION TO TRAGEDY AND WONDERED WHY DOD HAD EVER PERMITTED ITS RELEASE TO MEDIA. IN CONTRAST, SHIA IN TOWN OF SAYHAT HAVE TOLD AMCIT THERE THAT THEY ARE PROUD AND PLEASED BY RESTRAINT THAT IRAN HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATING.

--

8. WHEN QUERIED ON THE TRAGEDY'S SECURITY IMPLICATIONS FOR AMCITS, OUR SHIA CONTACTS INSISTED THAT AMCITS, INCLUDING CONGEN OFFS, ARE STILL WELCOME IN SHIA AREAS OF QATIF. HOWEVER, THEY CAUTIONED THAT CONSULATE VEHICLES, BEARING DISTINCTIVE BRIGHT GREEN DIPLOMATIC LICENSE PLATES, SHOULD AVOID SUCH AREAS, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING. (COMMENT: OUR TARUT HOST, IN FACT, PRESSED ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
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CG TO TRAVEL TO TARUT IN HOST'S VEHICLE AND SECURED CONSULAR CAR INSIDE HIS GARAGE THROUGHOUT VISIT TO HIS HOME. HOWEVER, HE EVINced NO CONCERN WHEN SHOWING HIS CONGEN GUESTS AROUND TARUT ISLAND LATER THAT AFTERNOON. END COMMENT).

--

9. OUR SHIA CONTACTS WERE ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS OF THE TRAGEDY FOR ASHURA, THE IMPORTANT AND HIGHLY EMOTIONAL SHIA RELIGIOUS COMMEMORATION RUNNING FROM AUGUST 13-22 (BY COINCIDENCE, THE FORTIETH DAY FOR MOURNING AFTER THE AIR BUS TRAGEDY ALSO FALLS AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS PERIOD). THEIR CONSENSUS WAS THAT "IT DEPENDS ON WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE HAJJ AND HOW THE SAG DEALS WITH THE SHIA COMMUNITY." ELABORATING ON THE FORMER, SOURCES ASSERTED THAT IF THERE IS CONFRONTATION AND TURMOIL DURING THE HAJJ, THERE WILL BE SIMILAR PROBLEMS IN THE EASTERN PROVINCE DURING ASHURA. ADDRESSING THE SAG'S DEALING WITH THE SHIA COMMUNITY, SOURCES INDICATED THAT SHIA FEEL THE SAG IS CURRENTLY

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NOTE BY OC/T: (##) OMISSION IN PARA 6. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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ACTION NEA-11

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	NSAE-00	COME-00	L-03	PM-10	EAP-00	PA-01	FAAE-00
	DOTE-00	STR-17	INRE-00	OCS-06	CA-02	ANAE-00	ACDA-12
	USIE-00	JUSE-00	SP-02	C-01	PRS-01	DS-01	DSE-00
	E-01	P-02	T-01	/103 W			

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FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7972
INFO GULF WAR COLLECTIVE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
CJTTFME
USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 03 OF 03 DHAHRAN 01415

E.O. 12356: DECL: ~~SADR~~
TAGS: PREL, MOPS, ASEC, EAIR, SA
SUBJECT: REACTION TO IRAN AIR - 655 TRAGEDY WITHIN

10. FINAL COMMENT: SHARPLY DIFFERING REACTIONS OF SUNNIS AND SHIA OVER THIS INCIDENT WERE TO BE EXPECTED. FOR THE MOMENT, WE BELIEVE SAUDI SHIA REMAIN PERPLEXED BY THE INCIDENT AND ARE INCLINED TO LOOK TO IRAN FOR ANY SIGNALS AS TO HOW TO RESPOND TO U.S. ROLE IN THE TRAGEDY. INCIDENT HAS NEVERTHELESS CONTRIBUTED TO GROWING MALAISE AMONG EASTERN PROVINCE SHIA THAT COULD MANIFEST ITSELF IN BOTH ANTI-U.S. AND ANTI-SAG DEMONSTRATIONS OVER THE TENSE PERIODS OF HAJJ AND ASHURA. WE DO NOT SENSE ANY IMMEDIATE THREAT TO U.S. FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL OR TO AMCITS IN THE EASTERN PROVINCE. WE WILL, HOWEVER, KEEP SECURITY SITUATION HERE UNDER CLOSE OBSERVATION AND

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CONTINUE TO ADVISE AMCITS TO EXERCISE DUE CAUTION, ESPECIALLY WHEN VISITING SHIA AREAS. END FINAL COMMENT.
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INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 SSO-00 /000 R

DRAFTED BY: NEA/PAB:RWBOEHME
APPROVED BY: P:MHARMACOST
NEA:HBSCHAFER
P:AEASTHAM
EAP/CM:MWONG
S/S-O:DTROTTERNEA/PAB:EMLINTON
EUR/SOV:BBURTON
S/S:MKLOSSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL PESHAWAR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE 920393

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Date. 9/18/96

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~~SECRET~~ STATE 218649~~EXDIS~~**DECLASSIFIED**E.O. 12356: ~~DECL. OADR~~

TAGS: PREL, PK, AF, US

SUBJECT: ARMACOST-MARKER MEETING, 7/6/88

1. ~~SECRET~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: IN A JULY 6 MEETING WITH PAKISTAN AMBASSADOR MARKER, UNDER SECRETARY ARMACOST UNDERLINED U.S. DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE GOP REACTION TO THE IRAN AIR INCIDENT, TAKING ISSUE WITH THE JUDGMENTAL CHARACTER OF THE OFFICIAL STATEMENTS AND THE HARSHNESS OF THE LANGUAGE. ARMACOST HOPED THAT MARKER WOULD PROVIDE THE GOP WITH A READING OF CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES TOWARDS PAKISTAN ON HIS UPCOMING TRIP HOME, PARTICULARLY AS

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PAGE 02 STATE 218649

REGARDS AWACS NOTIFICATION. HE URGED EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN ELECTION DATE. ARMACOST CAUTIONED AGAINST ALL-OUT GOP SUPPORT FOR HEKMATYAR, SUGGESTING THAT HEKMATYAR IS NOT A POPULAR FIGURE WITHIN AFGHANISTAN AND THE GOP STRATEGY COULD WELL BACKFIRE. END SUMMARY.

3. YAQUB KHAN VISIT. ARMACOST INFORMED MARKER THAT THE SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH YAQUB HAD BEEN PUSHED BACK A DAY, TO 10:00 A.M. ON JULY 28, PER GOP REQUEST. MARKER

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ASKED WHETHER A COURTESY CALL ON THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE POSSIBLE; ARMACOST PROMISED WE WOULD CONTACT THE WHITE

HOUSE. OTHER POSSIBLE APPOINTMENTS FOR YAQUB IN WASHINGTON MENTIONED BY MARKER INCLUDE SECRETARY CARLUCCI, NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR POWELL, AND CONGRESSMAN WILSON.

4. [REDACTED] MARKER NOTED THAT HE WAS RETURNING TO PAKISTAN NEXT WEEK TO ATTEND A CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE. ARMACOST SUGGESTED THAT MARKER USE THE OCCASION TO PROVIDE AN APPRAISAL OF THE CONGRESSIONAL SITUATION IN LIGHT OF ZIA'S ACTIONS IN LATE MAY, PARTICULARLY AS IT BEARS ON [REDACTED] HE ADDED THAT THE SOONER PRESIDENT ZIA ANNOUNCES AN ELECTION DATE, THE BETTER.

5. IRAN AIR INCIDENT. THE USG, ARMACOST SAID, IS TROUBLED BY THE ACCUSATIONS IN THE LETTERS PRESIDENT ZIA AND FOREIGN MINISTER YAQUB SENT TO THEIR IRANIAN COUNTERPARTS ON THE IRAN AIR INCIDENT. THE CAPTAIN OF THE VINCENNES WAS FORCED TO MAKE A QUICK DECISION BASED ON THE BEST AVAILABLE INFORMATION. ARMACOST ADDED THAT THE IRANIANS HAD SENT F-14'S TO THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ AREA

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AND BASED CIVILIAN AND MILITARY AIRCRAFT AT THE SAME AIRFIELDS. THE CAPTAIN OF THE VINCENNES HAD TAKEN ACTION WITH THESE FACTORS IN MIND. MOREOVER, THE IRAN AIR PLANE EMITTED A SIGNAL CHARACTERISTIC OF IRANIAN MILITARY AIRCRAFT AND IT WAS APPARENTLY OFF OF THE NORMAL AIR CORRIDOR. THE U.S. IS CONDUCTING A FULL INVESTIGATION INTO THE INCIDENT, WHICH, SAID ARMACOST, IS "ALL THE MORE REASON FOR A JUDICIOUS LAG" IN PASSING JUDGMENT.

6. MARKER PROMISED TO PASS ON OUR CONCERNS TO THE GOP. HE SAID THAT THE TONE OF THE LETTERS WAS INFLUENCED BY TWO FACTORS: FEELING IN PAKISTAN IS HIGH, AND THE DEPARTING PAKISTANI MILITARY ATTACHE IN TEHERAN AND HIS FAMILY WERE ON THE PLANE. MARKER THOUGHT PERSONALLY THAT THE LETTERS WERE "MODERATE." ARMACOST, AFTER EXPRESSING PERSONAL CONDOLENCES ON THE DEATH OF THE MILITARY ATTACHE AND NOTING THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN WOULD BE SENDING A CONDOLENCE LETTER TO PRESIDENT ZIA, SAID THAT USING THE TERM "REPREHENSIBLE" AND CALLING FOR PUNISHMENT OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE WAS NOT A MODERATE REACTION. HE ADDED THAT AMBASSADOR RAPHEL HAD TAKEN UP THE MATTER WITH PRESIDENT ZIA.

7. AFGHANISTAN. ARMACOST NOTED THAT HE HAD TALKED THAT DAY WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR DUBININ, "WHO TOUCHED ON AFGHANISTAN IN AN ACCUSATORY WAY." ARMACOST TOLD DUBININ

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THAT UNGOMAP WAS SET UP TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF THE ACCORDS. ARMACOST AND MARKER DISCUSSED THE

POSSIBILITY OF A CORDOVEZ MEETING WITH THE RESISTANCE ALLIANCE DURING HIS CURRENT TRIP TO REGION. ARMACOST CITED CORDOVEZ' AVERSION FOR DEALING WITH THE ALLIANCE, BUT NOTED THE CLOSE ALLIANCE VOTE AGAINST SEEING CORDOVEZ AND SPECULATED THAT A MEETING WOULD EVENTUALLY BE ARRANGED.

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STATE 218649

10. ARMACOST AND MARKER ALSO BRIEFLY DISCUSSED THE SOVIET PULLOUT, INCLUDING THE CONFUSION CONCERNING THE EXACT NUMBERS OF TROOPS WHICH HAVE ALREADY LEFT. MARKER NOTED THAT THE AFGHAN PULLOUT IS WORKING TO GORBACHEV'S POLITICAL ADVANTAGE WITHIN THE SOVIET UNION, WHICH ARMACOST SAID ACTS AS A FURTHER FACTOR AGAINST A SOVIET REVERSAL OF COURSE.

11. IRAN. ARMACOST NOTED THAT THE TEXT OF OUR MESSAGE TO THE IRANISANS FOLLOWING THE IRAN AIR INCIDENT WAS

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STATE 218649

PASSED TO AMB. RAPHEL TO SHARE WITH THE GOP. HE

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88STATE 218649

12. MISSILE PROLIFERATION. THE RECENT INCIDENT IN THE

GULF IS SYMPTOMATIC OF THE PROBLEM OF BALLISTIC MISSILE PROLIFERATION, ARMACOST SAID. WHEN MISSILES ARE DEPLOYED, REACTION TIMES ARE VERY SHORT, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE SHORT DISTANCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST OR SOUTH ASIA ARE INVOKED. THIS, HE SAID, PUTS A TERRIBLE BURDEN ON HUMAN JUDGMENT AND CREATES CERTAIN BUILT-IN PRESSURES FOR ACTION. THE U. S. IS LOOKING INTO CONFIDENCE-BUILDING AND STABILIZATION MEASURES TO REDUCE THE TEMPTATION TO LAUNCH PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKES. ON THE SUPPLY OF MISSILES, ARMACOST SAID THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE EXPRESSED KEEN INTEREST IN DISCUSSING THE ISSUE, AND EXPERTS DISCUSSIONS ARE PLANNED FOR SEPTEMBER. THE CHINESE, HOWEVER, HAVE RESPONDED WITH RITUAL ASSURANCES WITHOUT TAKING ANY LEGAL ACTION. MARKER ASKED IF SHIPBOARD MISSILES FIGURED IN THE U. S. CONCEPTION OF A MISSILE TECHNOLOGY CONTROL REGIME; ARMACOST ASSURED HIM THEY DID, IF THEY FELL WITHIN THE RANGE AND PAYLOAD PARAMETERS (300 KM AND 500 KG) OF THE MISSILE TECH REGIME AND WERE NUCLEAR CAPABLE.

13. KABUL MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.
WHITEHEAD

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88ANKARA008934

EXCISE

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 08934 071320Z

ACTION NEA-11

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-00 SS-00 CIAE-00 H-01
MSC-01 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-09 L-03 TRSE-00
PM-10 PA-01 OMB-01 INM-07 INRE-00 ACDA-12 USIE-00
SP-02 SNP-01 C-01 PRS-01 DS-01 DSE-00 SCT-02
P-02 T-01 /077 W

-----251333 071326Z /41

O 071317Z JUL 88

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8858

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

GULF WAR COLLECTIVE

SECDEF WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

USMISSION USNATO

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//POLAD//

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT//INTAFF

USNMR SHAPE BE//INTAFF//

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE//POLAD//

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E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: PREL, TU, IR

SUBJECT: IRAN AIRBUS TRAGEDY

REF: STATE 214700

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: IRANIAN DEPUTY FM MANSURI, CURRENTLY VISITING ANKARA, TOLD

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PAGE 02 ANKARA 08934 071320Z

THAT IRAN DOES NOT CONSIDER THE AIRBUS INCIDENT CLOSED. MANSURI MADE IT OBVIOUS IRAN INTENDS TO RETALIATE, BUT GAVE NO INDICATION WHAT FORM THIS RETALIATION MIGHT TAKE.

END SUMMARY.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~PAGE 01 ANKARA 08934 071320Z
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INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-10	EUR-00	SS-00	CIAE-00	H-01
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	PM-10	PA-01	OMB-01	INM-07	INRE-00	ACDA-12	USIE-00
	SP-02	SNP-01	C-01	PRS-01	DS-01	DSE-00	SCT-02
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O 071317Z JUL 88
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8858
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
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AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
GULF WAR COLLECTIVE
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USMISSION USNATO
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//POLAD//
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT//INTAFF
USNMR SHAPE BE//INTAFF//
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE//POLAD//

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E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PREL, TU, IR
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REF: STATE 214700

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: IRANIAN DEPUTY FM MANSURI, CURRENTLY
VISITING ANKARA, TOLI

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PAGE 02. ANKARA 08934 071320Z

THAT IRAN DOES NOT CONSIDER THE AIRBUS INCIDENT CLOSED.
MANSURI MADE IT OBVIOUS IRAN INTENDS TO RETALIATE, BUT
GAVE NO INDICATION WHAT FORM THIS RETALIATION MIGHT
TAKE.

END SUMMARY.

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[REDACTED]
TO PRESENT THE U.S. POSITION ON THE IRAN AIR CRASH
(REFTEL). [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

3. [REDACTED]

ALTHOUGH MANSURI MADE IT OBVIOUS THAT IRAN PLANS TO
RETALIATE, HE GAVE NO HINT OF THE NATURE OR TIMING OF
THE SUCH ACTION.

4. THE IRANIAN ASSERTED THAT THE IRAN AIR PLANE HAD BEEN
IN THE NORMAL CIVILIAN AIR CORRIDOR, "FLOWN BY 100
PLANES DAILY," AND THAT THE U.S. HAD DELIBERATELY SHOT
IT OWN. [REDACTED] MANSURI DID NOT EXPLAIN WHY
IRAN HAD CONCLUDED THE U.S. ACTION HAD BEEN DELIBERATE.
MANSURI INSISTED THAT THE CRITICAL SITUATION IN THE GULF
WOULD CONTINUE, AND THAT THE U.S. "INTERVENTION" HAD
OPENED THE WAY FOR FURTHER ESCALATION.

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PAGE 03 . ANKARA 08934 071320Z

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MANSURI INSISTED THAT
SHOOTING DOWN A CIVILIAN PLANE WAS UNACCEPTABLE UNDER
ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

6. POLCOONS STRESSED THAT THIS INCIDENT DID NOT HAPPEN
IN THE ABSTRACT. IRANIAN GUNBOATS WERE ATTACKING
CIVILIAN SHIPPING AT THE TIME, AND HAD FIRED ON A
HELICOPTER FROM THE "VINCENNES." ANY STATE THAT
PERMITTED A CIVIL AIRCRAFT TO FLY INTO SUCH A
SITUATION, IN WHAT HAD LONG BEEN RECOGNIZED AS A
DANGEROUS ZONE, MUST BEAR HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE
CONSEQUENCES.

STRAUSZ-HUPE

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PAGE 01 RIO DE 03637 01 OF 02 052008Z
ACTION DS-01

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-00 OIC-02 CIAE-00 EB-00
IO-19 NEA-06 NSCE-00 ARA-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 PA-01
INRE-00 USIE-00 C-01 DSE-00 SCT-02 P-02 /044 W

-----116433 052018Z /60

O 052003Z JUL 88

FM AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2829

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

AMCONSUL PORTO ALEGRE

AMCONSUL RECIFE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

920393

IS/FPC/CDR

Date.

9/18/96

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 RIO DE JANEIRO 03637E.O. 12356: ~~DECL. OADR~~

TAGS: PREL, SOPN, ASEC, BR

SUBJECT: REACTION IN RIO TO DOWNING OF IRAN AIR

- FLT 655 AND POST SECURITY MEASURES

REF: STATE 214686

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: POST FOUND LOCAL CONTACTS AT JULY 4
RECEPTION SYMPATHETIC AND SUPPORTIVE OF U.S. POSITION
IN THE IRAN AIR DOWNING WHILE STRESSING THE "HUMAN
TRAGEDY" ASPECT OF THE EVENT. SEVERAL REGRETTED
U.S. WOULD STILL PAY A POLITICAL PRICE FOR THE
INCIDENT. EDITORIALS IN LEADING DAILIES GIVE U.S.
FULL BENEFIT OF DOUBT AND CALL FOR GREATER
MEASURES TO PROTECT LIFE IN THE PERSIAN GULF
INCLUDING MORE VIGOROUS UN ROLE. POST HAS TAKEN
SEVERAL APPROPRIATE SECURITY MEASURES. END SUMMARY.

3. CONGEN HAD AMPLE OPPORTUNITY AT JULY 4TH

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PAGE 02 RIO DE 03637 01 OF 02 052008Z

RECEPTION TO BROADLY SAMPLE REACTIONS IN RIO DE
JANEIRO TO DOWNING OF IRANIAN AIRLINER. FIRST,
IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT DESPITE INCIDENT, WE HAD
A TURNOUT AS GOOD AS IF NOT SLIGHTLY BETTER THAN
LAST YEAR. THE GOVERNOR OF RIO, WHO NORMALLY DOES
NOT ATTEND NATIONAL DAY CEREMONIES, WAS REPRESENTED
BY HIS WIFE AND TWO CHILDREN. RIO MAYOR SATURNINO
BRAGA CAME AND REMAINED FOR SOME TIME. THERE WERE
ALSO A NUMBER OF STATE SECRETARIES, FLAG OFFICERS

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OF THE MILITARY SERVICES WITH THE NAVY AND AIR FORCE WELL REPRESENTED, MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN CONSULAR CORPS, (INCLUDING CONSULS GENERAL FROM SEVERAL MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES), POLITICIANS (INCLUDING A SIZEABLE CONTINGENT FROM THE LEFT-OF-CENTER PDT), CULTURAL AND UNIVERSITY FIGURES, PRIVATE SECTOR REPS AND LEADERS OF LOCAL AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS.

4. MOST GUESTS DID NOT DWELL ON THE INCIDENT, BUT THERE WAS GENERAL ACCEPTANCE OF U.S. OFFICIAL EXPLANATIONS AND A WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER THE EVENT "AN UNFORTUNATE HUMAN TRAGEDY." THIS WAS TONE OF USIS CONTACTS WITH OPINION MAKERS AT THE RECEPTION.

5. MILITARY OFFICERS STATED THEIR FULL SYMPATHY AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE VINCENNES AS "CORRECT AND APPROPRIATE." A NAVAL OFFICER RECALLED THE STARK. ONE ANGLE EXPRESSED BY OFFICERS, HOWEVER, WAS THAT THE U.S. SHOULD HAVE PREVIOUSLY DECLARED THE ENTIRE AREA A FREE FIRE OR A WAR ZONE OR ADVISED COUNTRIES IN THE AREA OF POTENTIAL DANGERS. TWO SENIOR CIVIL AVIATION
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PAGE 03 RIO DE 03637 01 OF 02 052008Z

OFFICIALS (BOTH AIR FORCE OFFICERS) SAID THEY UNDERSTOOD THE NEED FOR WHAT WAS DONE FROM A MILITARY STANDPOINT BUT FORWARDED NEGATIVE POLITICAL FALLOUT; ONE WAS REFERRING MORE TO REACTIONS IN INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION CIRCLES, THE OTHER TO THE IMPACT ON THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.

6. MIDDLE EASTERN DIPLOMATS PRESENT INCLUDED

[REDACTED] VIEWED THE IRAN AIR MATTER AS "A REGRETTABLE INCIDENT." HE SAID THE IRANIANS ARE "CRAZY ANYWAY" AND HE DID NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE WHOLE INCIDENT COULD HAVE BEEN A SUICIDE MISSION.

7. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] TOLD THE CONSUL GENERAL THE U.S. SHIP DID EXACTLY WHAT IT HAD TO DO. HE IS TOTALLY SUPPORTIVE OF THE U.S. IN THE MATTER.

8. THE MAJOR RIO PRESS IN JULY 5 EDITORIALS ALSO HAS BEEN SYMPATHETIC. THE "JORNAL DO BRASIL" DISCOUNTED AS "ODIOUS AND IMPERTINENT" THE PRESS CAMPAIGN COMPARING THE U.S. ACTION TO THAT OF

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THE SOVIET SHOOTING DOWN OF THE KAL AIRLINER.
JB ALSO CONTRASTED IRAN'S REACTION TO THE INCIDENT
TO ITS INSENSITIVITY TO THE DEATH OF 2 MILLION
DURING THE PERIOD OF ITS CONFLICT WITH IRAQ,
INCLUDING ITS "RITUAL SACRIFICE OF HUMAN BEINGS"
AS MARTYRS. IT NOTED THE AIRCRAFT WAS OUTSIDE THE

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ACTION DS-01

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-10	SS-00	OIC-02	CIAE-00	EB-00
	IO-19	NEA-06	NSCE-00	ARA-00	NSAE-00	SSO-00	PA-01
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O 052003Z JUL 88
FM AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2830
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
AMCONSUL PORTO ALEGRE
AMCONSUL RECIFE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 RIO DE JANEIRO 03637

E.O. 12356: ~~DECL: OADR~~
TAGS: PREL, SOPN, ASEC, BR
SUBJECT: REACTION IN RIO TO DOWNING OF IRAN AIR

OBLIGATORY ROUTE FOR CIVIL AVIATION, "NOT ENTIRELY
UNCOMMON BUT WHICH COULD CAUSE PANIC IN TIMES OF
WAR." JB CONCLUDED: "THIS WAR AND ITS INSENSITIVITY
ARE THE PRINCIPAL CULPRITS FOR A TRAGIC ACCIDENT
WHICH DOES NOT FAIL, IN ANY EVENT, TO CAST A
SHADOW OVER THE LAST MONTHS OF THE REAGAN
PRESIDENCY."

9. THE "GLOBO" ALSO OPINED THAT "GIVEN THE NEGATIVE
POLITICAL COST AND LACKING AN ATTACK ON A COMMERCIAL
AIRLINER ANY STRATEGIC SENSE, ONE CAN ONLY TAKE AS
AN ACCIDENT AND A TRAGEDY THE SHOOTING DOWN OF THE
AIRBUS..." "GLOBO" RULES OUT THE VERSION THAT
THE INCIDENT WAS AN ACT OF TERRORISM. IT CALLS,
HOWEVER, FOR "CAUTIONS WHICH SHOULD ALREADY HAVE BEEN
TAKEN" IN THE GULF AREA. "GLOBO" SAYS RESPONSIBILITY
OF PROTECTING COMMERCIAL NAVIGATION SHOULD NOT BE

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PAGE 02. RIO DE 03637 02 OF 02 052009Z

THAT OF THE U.S. ALONE AND CALLS ON THE UNITED
NATIONS TO TAKE DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY AND CREATE
AN INTERNATIONAL PEACE-KEEPING FORCE TO PROTECT
NAVIGATION IN THE PERSIAN GULF.

10. POST HAS TAKEN IMMEDIATE, APPROPRIATE STEPS (PER
REFTEL) TO ENHANCE ITS SECURITY POSTURE FOLLOWING THE
IRAN AIR INCIDENT. THERE WERE ADDITIONAL POLICE FOR
OUR JULY 4 RECEPTION, AND WE ASKED LOCAL POLICE TO ASSURE
QUICK RESPONSE IN THE EVENT OF ANY DEMONSTRATIONS (NONE

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OCCURED). THE RSO HAS ARRANGED TO HAVE 24 HOUR POLICE PROTECTION AT THE CONSUL GENERAL'S RESIDENCE, AS WELL AS INCREASING POLICE PATROLS NEAR TWO U.S. NAVAL OFFICERS RESIDENCES (DAO AND MLO). CONSUL GENERAL CHAIRED MEETING OF FULL EAC ON JULY 5 (SMALLER GROUP MET JULY 4 TO CONSIDER IMMEDIATE SECURITY CONCERNS). PACKAGE SECURITY WILL BE ENHANCED.

A MEETING OF ALL EMPLOYEES HAS BEEN CALLED FOR JULY 7. WE HAVE CONTACTED OR ARE IN PROCESS OF CONTACTING ALL AMERICAN-LINKED INSTITUTIONS IN RIO INCLUDING THE AMERICAN SOCIETY (OF LOCAL AMCIT RESIDENTS), AMCHAM, IBEU BI-NATIONAL CENTER (WITH SEVERAL BRANCHES), AND THE AMERICAN SCHOOL TO DISCUSS THEIR SECURITY SITUATION. CONSUL GENERAL WILL USE SCHEDULED MEETING, JULY 6, WITH RIO GOVERNOR MOREIRA FRANCO TO STRESS OUR DESIRE FOR CONTINUED STATE POLICE SUPPORT FOR OUR SECURITY NEEDS. FEDERAL POLICE (DPF) SUPERINTENDENT IN RIO FABIO WANDERLEY TOLD CONSUL GENERAL ON JULY 4 WE CAN COUNT ON FULL DPF ASSISTANCE IN THE EVENT OF A SECURITY INCIDENT.

(DRAFTED BY: POL DSTRASSER) SCHWARTZ

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88OTTAWA005458

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 05458 01 OF 02 052140Z
ACTION EUR-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-00 OIC-02 CIAE-00 EB-00
DODE-00 H-01 MSC-01 IO-19 NEA-06 NSCE-00 NSAE-00
SSO-00 HA-09 L-03 TRSE-00 PM-10 PA-01 DOTE-00
OMB-01 INRE-00 USIE-00 SP-02 SNP-01 C-01 PRS-01
P-02 T-01 /071 W

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O 052137Z JUL 88

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4194

INFO NATO COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL MONTREAL IMMEDIATE

ALL AMCONSULS CANADA POUCH

DEPARTMENT OF STATE 920393	IS/FPC/CDR <i>JB</i>	Date. <i>9/18/91</i>
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 OTTAWA 05458

MONTREAL FOR USREP ICAO

DEPARTMENT PASS INR/B

E.O. 12356:DECL:OADR

TAGS: PREL, PINR, XF, IR, CA

SUBJECT: GOC SUPPORTS US ROLE IN IRANAIR MISHAP,

- BUT AXWORTHY TAKES POTSHOTS

REF: OTTAWA 5401 (NOTAL)

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: THE GOC (AND, APPARENTLY, MOST CANADIANS) HAVE TAKEN A FAIRLY BALANCED, "LET'S LOOK AT THE FACTS" ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE JULY 3 DOWNING OF THE IRANAIR PLANE. IN CONTRAST, LIBERAL SPOKESMAN LLOYD AXWORTHY JUMPED ON AN OPPORTUNITY TO AIM A FEW BLOWS AT UNCLE SAM'S HEAD AND DEMANDED AN INVESTIGATION INTO

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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 05458 01 OF 02 052140Z

THE AFFAIR. END SUMMARY.

3. DURING THE JULY 4 SESSION OF QUESTION PERIOD IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, ACTING PRIME MINISTER (AND TRADE MINISTER) JOHN CROSBIE FIELDERD ANGRY QUESTIONS ON THE IRANAIR ACCIDENT FROM LIBERAL MP LLOYD AXWORTHY. AXWORTHY, WHO IS WELL-KNOWN FOR HIS ANTAGONISM TOWARD THE U.S. ON VARIOUS ISSUES, CHALLENGED THE U.S. VERSION OF EVENTS AND URGED THE GOC TO CALL FOR AN

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EMERGENCY SESSION OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL AND A SPECIAL SESSION OF ICAO TO "BOTH INVESTIGATE THE INCIDENT AND DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS IT POSED FOR INTERNATIONAL AVIATION."

4. CROSBIE (WHO WAS FILLING IN FOR THE ABSENT PRIME MINISTER MULRONEY AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER CLARK) RESPONDED TO AXWORTHY'S HOSTILE QUESTIONS BY TELLING THE HOUSE THAT "THERE IS NO REASON AT THIS TIME TO DOUBT THE DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENTS AS PROVIDED BY THE UNITED STATES." LATER, OUTSIDE THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, CROSBIE TOLD NEWS MEDIA THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL PUT OFF MAKING A DECISION ON WHETHER AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE MATTER IS REQUIRED UNTIL CANADA, "AS A MEMBER OF ICAO OR AS A MEMBER OF THE UN," IS ASKED TO DO SO. CROSBIE FIRMLY BRUSHED OFF COMPARISONS BETWEEN THE IRANAIR SHOOTING AND THE 1983 DOWNING OF A KAL PASSENGER PLANE BY SOVIET MIGS.

5. THE CROSBIE/AXWORTHY DUEL CONTINUED IN THE JULY 5 SESSION OF QUESTION PERIOD. CROSBIE CONTINUED TO ARGUE THAT THE GOC HAS NO REASON TO DOUBT THE USG VERSION OF EVENTS, WHILE SUPPORTING IRAN'S REQUEST FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE ICAO AND AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION OF THE AFFAIR. CROSBIE

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PAGE 03 OTTAWA 05458 01 OF 02 052140Z

INSISTED THAT "THE MERE MENTION OF THE U.S. DOES NOT MEAN WE WILL REACT IN A NEGATIVE MANNER." HE ALSO REPEATED GOC SUPPORT FOR THE USG ROLE IN THE GULF AND URGED THE BELLIGERENTS -- IRAN AND IRAQ -- TO END THE CONFLICT. AXWORTHY, DURING THE JULY 5 QUESTION PERIOD, URGED SUPPORT FOR AN INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION (IATA) REQUEST THAT THE U.S. AND IRAN BOTH PROVIDE ALL RELEVANT DOCUMENTATION TO ICAO FOR AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION.

6. THE GOC JULY 4 ISSUED THE FOLLOWING UNSIGNED PRESS STATEMENT ON THE IRANAIR MISHAP:

- BEGIN TEXT. THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA LEARNED WITH SHOCK AND PROFOUND REGRET OF YESTERDAY'S LOSS OF LIFE ABOARD THE IRANIAN AIRLINER AND EXTENDS TO THE BEREAVED ITS DEEPEST SYMPATHIES. THIS TRAGIC EVENT IS A GRIM REMINDER OF THE DANGERS OF CONTINUED INSTABILITY IN THE REGION. ALL CONCERNED MUST RECOGNIZE THE NEED TO PURSUE WITH A GREATER SENSE OF URGENCY, EFFORTS TO BRING THIS CONFLICT TO AN END. END TEXT.

7. AMBASSADOR AND POLOFFS WERE STRUCK BY THE SUPPORTIVE ATTITUDE OF MOST OF THE GUESTS ATTENDING THE AMBASSADOR'S JULY 4 RECEPTION. WE ALSO NOTED CONSIDERABLE SKEPTICISM TOWARD THE IRANIAN VERSION OF

PAGE NO. 2

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EVENTS AMONG THE MAJORITY OF THOSE GUESTS WHO VENTURED
AN OPINION ON THE SUBJECT.

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 05458 02 OF 02 052140Z
ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-10	SS-00	OIC-02	CIAE-00	EB-00
	DODE-00	H-01	MSC-01	IO-19	NEA-06	NSCE-00	NSAE-00
	SSO-00	HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-01	DOTE-00
	OMB-01	INRE-00	USIE-00	SP-02	SNP-01	C-01	PRS-01
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-----122002 052206Z /60

O 052137Z JUL 88
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4195
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AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL MONTREAL IMMEDIATE
ALL AMCONSULS CANADA POUCH

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 OTTAWA 05458

MONTREAL FOR USREP ICAO
DEPARTMENT PASS INR/B

E.O. 12356:DECL:OADR
TAGS: PREL, PINR, XF, IR, CA
SUBJECT: GOC SUPPORTS US ROLE IN IRANAIR MISHAP,

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88DOHA 001809

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PAGE 01 DOHA 01809 051226Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-00 SS-00 CIAE-00 EB-00
H-01 MSC-01 IO-19 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-09
L-03 TRSE-00 PM-10 PA-01 FAAE-00 DOTE-00 OMB-01
INRE-00 ACDA-12 SP-02 SNP-01 C-01 PRS-01 DS-01
DSE-00 P-02 T-01 /087 W

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O 051222Z JUL 88
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6513
INFO GULF WAR COLLECTIVE

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USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL
JCS WASHDC
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
SECDEF WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 3610

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ DOHA 01809

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, MOPS, EAIR, QA, US
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL QATAR STATEMENT ON THE DOWNING
OF IRAN AIR FLIGHT 655

1. (U) AN OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN AT THE QATAR MFA RELEASED A
STATEMENT ON THE DOWNING OF IRAN AIR FLIGHT 655, REPORTED
IN THE JULY 5 DAILY GULF TIMES AS FOLLOWS: "THE STATE OF
QATAR OFFERED ITS CONDOLENCES TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE
OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN AND TO THE VICTIMS'
FAMILIES. THE SPOKESMAN SAID QATAR SAW THE PAINFUL
INCIDENT AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE TRAGIC RESULTS OF THE IRAQ-
IRAN WAR, THE CONTINUATION OF WHICH COULD LEAD TO MORE
SIMILAR INCIDENTS, AND EXACERBATING TENSION WHICH PREVAILE
IN THE REGION POSING THREATS TO ITS SECURITY AND STABILITY
THE SPOKESMAN ISSUED AN APPEAL TO THE WORLD COMMUNITY TO

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PAGE 02 DOHA 01809 051226Z

"EXERT CONCERTED EFFORTS TO BRING A PEACEFUL END TO THE
WAR AND ACHIEVE LASTING PEACE AMONG THE REGION'S PEOPLES."

2. ~~let~~ COMMENT: DURING A CONVERSATION ON JULY 5,
[REDACTED] INFORMED AMBASSADOR THAT [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] THE ABOVE OFFICIAL STATEMENT. THE STATEMENT,
UNDERSTANDABLY, UNDERLINES THE CONTINUATION OF THE IRAN-
IRAQ WAR AS THE CAUSE OF SUCH A MISCALCULATION AND STRONGL
CALLS UPON THE WORLD COMMUNITY TO SHOW ITS RESPONSIBILITY

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TO MAKE PEACE A REALITY IN THE REGION. [REDACTED]
ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE BEHAVIOR OF THE SOVIET UNION AND THE
CHINESE IN REFUSING TO ENDORSE A SECOND RESOLUTION
IMPLEMENTING RESOLUTION 598 WAS UNHELPFUL.
GHOUGASSIAN

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 14270 01 OF 02 051013Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00 NSCE-00 NSAE-00
SSO-00 PM-10 PA-01 INRE-00 USIE-00 SP-02 C-01
PRS-01 P-02 /038 W

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O 051507Z JUL 88

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5035

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

GULF WAR COLLECTIVE

USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE 920393

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Date.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 ISLAMABAD 14270

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: MOPS, PREL, IR, PK, US

SUBJECT: ZIA, YAQUB KHAN AND SATTAR ON IRANAIR CRASH

1. ~~C~~ - ENTIRE TEXT

2. SUMMARY: WE ARE SENDING SEPTTEL TEXTS OF STATEMENTS ISSUED LATE YESTERDAY BY PRESIDENT ZIA AND FOREIGN MINISTER YAQUB KHAN ON THE IRANAIR CRASH. THE GOP STATEMENTS ARE HARSH AND PREJUDGE THE SITUATION IN FAVOR OF THE IRANIANS. THEY REFLECT THE STRONGLY NEGATIVE REACTION IN THE PUBLIC MEDIA WHICH IS CONDEMNATORY OF THE U.S. ACTION. END SUMMARY.

3. AMBASSADOR RAISED THE GOP REACTION WITH PRESIDENT ZIA AND POLITICAL COUNSELOR DID THE SAME WITH FOREIGN MINISTER YAQUB KHAN AND FOREIGN SECRETARY SATTAR DURING JULY 4 RECEPTION YESTERDAY

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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 14270 01 OF 02 051013Z

EVENING. UNFORTUNATELY, WE DID NOT HAVE TEXTS OF THE PAKISTANI STATEMENTS AT THE TIME.

4. PRIOR TO ZIA'S ARRIVAL AT THE RECEPTION, POLCOUNSELOR REVIEWED PRESIDENT REAGAN'S STATEMENT ON THE IRANAIR CRASH WITH SATTAR AND YAQUB KHAN. SATTAR WAS OBVIOUSLY VERY DISTURBED BY NEWS OF THE EVENT AND SEEMED TO HAVE PREJUDGED WHAT HAPPENED. HE MENTIONED THE DEATH OF THE PAKISTANI NAVAL

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ATTACHE TO TEHRAN AND HIS FAMILY IN THE CRASH. SATTAR CONTESTED OUR STATEMENT THAT THE AIRBUS WAS FLYING OUT OF THE INTERNATIONAL AIR CORRIDOR, CITING NEWS REPORTS THAT EVEN SOME U.S. SOURCES WERE STATING THE THE AIRBUS WAS IN THE CORRECT AIR CORRIDOR. HE SEEMED SKEPTICAL THAT THE VINCENNES' RADAR COULD NOT DISTINGUISH BETWEEN AN F-14 AND A PASSENGER AIRLINER. SATTAR DESCRIBED THE GOP STATEMENTS AS MODERATE AND SAID (INCORRECTLY) THAT THE U.S. HAD NOT BEEN MENTIONED BY NAME. HE ADDED THAT THE STATEMENTS HAD BEEN MODELLED AFTER THE GOP REACTION TO THE KAL 007 INCIDENT. DURING THE CONVERSATION, YAQUB KHAN CONTRIBUTED VERY LITTLE.

5. POLCOUNSELOR ARGUED STRONGLY THAT THERE COULD BE NO COMPARISON BETWEEN THE INCIDENT IN THE GULF AND THE SOVIET SHOOTING DOWN OF THE KOREAN AIRLINER. THE INCIDENTS WERE SIMPLY NOT COMPARABLE. THE VINCENNES HAD WARNED OFF THE AIRBUS SEVERAL TIMES AND HAD RECEIVED NO RESPONSE. THERE HAD BEEN NO VISUAL CONTACT OF THE AIRLINER AND THE USG HAD STATED PUBLICLY THAT THE RADAR ABOARD THE VINCENNES HAD BEEN UNABLE TO DETERMINE THE TYPE OF AIRCRAFT APPROACHING IT. IN ADDITION, AN ITALIAN NAVAL
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PAGE 03 ISLAMA 14270 01 OF 02 051013Z

VESSEL IN THE AREA HAD CORROBORATED THAT THE AIRBUS WAS NOT FLYING WHERE IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN.

6. AT THAT POINT PRESIDENT ZIA AND THE AMBASSADOR JOINED THE CONVERSATION. THE AMBASSADOR FIRST EXPRESSED REGRET FOR THE LOSS OF INNOCENT LIFE, AND IN PARTICULAR THE DEATH OF THE PAKISTANI ATTACHE AND HIS FAMILY. HE THEN SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE GOP STATEMENT HAD TERMED THE INCIDENT REPREHENSIBLE, ASKED THAT ALL FOREIGN FORCES BE WITHDRAWN FROM THE GULF AND HAD CALLED FOR PUNISHMENT FOR THOSE RESPONSIBLE. THIS PREJUDGED ANY INVESTIGATION, DID NOT SQUARE WITH THE FACTS AS WE KNEW THEM AND OVERLOOKED THE BASIC FACT THAT IRAN WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTINUING THE CONFLICT.

7. SOMEWHAT SURPRISINGLY, ZIA TURNED TO YAQUB KHAN AND ASKED WHAT HAD BEEN IN THE OFFICIAL STATEMENTS. HE SEEMED TO BE UNAWARE OF WHAT HAD BEEN ISSUED. YAQUB KHAN AND SATTAR DID SOME BACKPEDALLING AND OUTLINED THE CONTENTS OF THE STATEMENTS IN GENERAL TERMS, BUT WITHOUT MENTIONING THE HARSH CONDEMNATION OF THE U.S. ZIA THEN STATED THAT THE INCIDENT HAD BEEN A TRAGEDY BUT THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN WAS TO BE COMMENDED FOR THE COURAGEOUS AND FORTHRIGHT WAY IN WHICH HE HAD ACKNOWLEDGED THE INCIDENT.

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 14270 02 OF 02 051012Z
ACTION NEA-11

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	PRS-01	P-02	/038 W				

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5036
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR
GULF WAR COLLECTIVE
USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 ISLAMABAD 14270

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: MOPS, PREL, IR, PK, US
SUBJECT: ZIA, YAQUB KHAN AND SATTAR ON IRANAIR CRASH



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PAGE 01 LONDON 14333 01 OF 02 051657Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-10	EUR-00	SS-00	CIAE-00	EB-00
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	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-01	FAAE-00	NOTE-00	OMB-01	INRE-00
	ACDA-12	SP-02	SNP-01	C-01	PRS-01	DS-01	DSE-00
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O 051649Z JUL 88
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7082
WHITEHOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO GULF WAR COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
NATO COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
JCS WASHDC PRIORITY
USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 6878

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 14333

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, UK, IR, ZP
SUBJECT: IRAN AIR INCIDENT: INITIAL UK REACTION

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

HMG'S REACTION

2. THE THATCHER GOVERNMENT'S REACTION TO REPORTS OF THE SHOOTING DOWN OF THE IRAN AIR FLIGHT WERE AMONGST THE MOST IMMEDIATE AND SUPPORTIVE REGISTERED BY FRIENDS AND ALLIES ABROAD. THE PRIME MINISTER RETURNED TO 10 DOWNING STREET FROM HER WEEKEND HOUSE TO LEAD THE PROCESS OF COORDINATING A UK RESPONSE. SHE WAS IN TOUCH WITH US OFFICIALS BOTH HERE AND IN WASHINGTON AND WAS ABLE TO RELEASE A STATEMENT ABOUT A HALF HOUR AFTER THE

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PRESIDENT AND ADMIRAL CROWE HAD ADDRESSED THE EVENT. WHILE PROFOUNDLY REGRETTING THE LOSS OF LIFE AND EXTENDING SYMPATHY TO THE BEREAVED, THE JULY 3 UK STATEMENT NOTED THAT THE DOWNING OF THE PLANE HAD BEEN A TRAGEDY FOR ALL CONCERNED. IT WENT ON TO SAY THAT HMG UNDERSTOOD THAT IN THE COURSE OF AN ENGAGEMENT FOLLOWING AN IRANIAN ATTACK ON U.S. FORCES, WARNINGS WERE GIVEN TO AN UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT APPARENTLY CLOSING WITH A U.S. WARSHIP, BUT THESE WARNINGS RECEIVED NO RESPONSE. THE

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STATEMENT ADDED THAT, "WE FULLY ACCEPT THE RIGHT OF FORCES ENGAGED IN SUCH HOSTILITIES TO DEFEND THEMSELVES" AND NOTED THAT THE TRAGIC ACCIDENT UNDERLINES THE URGENT NEED FOR AN EARLY END TO THE IRAN/IRAQ CONFLICT, INCLUDING AN END TO ALL ATTACKS ON SHIPPING.

3. AT THE OUTSET OF HER JULY 4 MEETING WITH SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE WRIGHT, THATCHER WAS EVEN MORE EMPHATIC AND RESOLUTE IN HER SUPPORT FOR THE NEED OF THE U.S. TO DEFEND ITSELF WHEN ITS SHIPS APPEAR TO BE UNDER ATTACK IN THE GULF. SHE WAS CLEARLY PLEASED THAT HER OFFICE HAD BEEN ABLE TO RELEASE A SUPPORTIVE STATEMENT SOON AFTER THE U.S. HAD MADE ITS OWN POSITION CLEAR TO THE PUBLIC.

U.S.-IRANIAN RELATIONS

4. IN THE MEANTIME, THE FCO HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING TO UNTANGLE THE LONG-TERM IMPLICATIONS OF THE EVENTS OF THE WEEKEND. SENIOR MIDDLE EAST SPECIALISTS MET ON JULY 4 TO TALK THROUGH THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE GULF WAR, THE LEADERSHIP STRUGGLE IN IRAN, RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UK AND IRAN, AND THE FATE OF THE UK PRISONERS IN

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IRAN AND THE HOSTAGES IN LEBANON. THE MEETING WAS REPORTEDLY LONG ON CONJECTURE AND SHORT ON EARLY FIRM CONCLUSIONS. WE WILL BE FOLLOWING WITH THE FCO AS THEY SORT OUT THE LARGER QUESTIONS, AND THEY ARE ANXIOUS TO HAVE OUR EARLY ANALYSIS OF THE FULL IMPLICATIONS.

5. BOTH LONDON AND TEHRAN APPEAR TO BE MOVING TO CONTAIN ANY LONG-TERM DAMAGE TO THEIR BILATERAL RELATIONS THAT MIGHT FLOW FROM THE INCIDENT. THE FCO AND IRANIAN CHARGE AKHOOND ZADEH BASTI WENT AHEAD WITH A PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED MEETING JULY 4 TO NAIL DOWN THE FINAL DETAILS OF A BILATERAL REPARATIONS AGREEMENT. THIS AGREEMENT HAS BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION FOR SOME WEEKS, AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT

EARLIER
IN THE DAY, BASTI ISSUED A STATEMENT THAT WAS PREDICTABLY CRITICAL OF THE UK SUPPORT OF THE U.S. RIGHT TO DEFEND ITS FORCES IN THE GULF, BUT UK OFFICIALS FOUND HIS REACTION

RELATIVELY RESTRAINED PUBLIC REACTION

6. IN GENERAL, OUR SENSE IS THAT THE REACTION IN THE UK TO THE INCIDENT HAS BEEN RELATIVELY RESTRAINED GIVEN THE ENORMITY OF THE TRAGEDY. MANY IN THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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FAIL TO UNDERSTAND WHY IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR SUCH A SOPHISTICATED SHIP TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE PLANE WAS A WARCRAFT OR A CARRIER OF PASSENGERS. EXPERTS ON TELEVISION PROGRAMS HAVE CAPABLY EXPLAINED THE INABILITY OF RADAR TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN SUCH DIFFERENT AIRCRAFT AS THE AIRBUS AND F-14 WHEN FLYING HEAD-ON, BUT THE GRAPHICS USED IN MANY PRINT MEDIA SUGGEST THESE AIRCRAFT SHOULD BE IDENTIFIABLE REGARDLESS. AT THE SAME TIME,

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-10	EUR-00	SS-00	CIAE-00	EB-00
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	SCT-02	P-02	T-01	/089 W			

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O 051649Z JUL 88
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7083
WHITEHOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO GULF WAR COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
NATO COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
JCS WASHDC PRIORITY
USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 6879

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 14333

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, UK, IR, ZP
SUBJECT: IRAN AIR INCIDENT: INITIAL UK REACTION

THE PRESS AND PUBLIC APPEAR TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE
IRANIAN AIR FLIGHT WAS CROSSING AN AREA OF CONSTANT
COMBAT WHERE THE DANGER LEVEL INEVITABLY WAS HIGH.

7. THE AMBASSADOR APPEARED ON TELEVISION AND RADIO FIVE
TIMES ON JULY 4 TO EXPLAIN THE U.S. POSITION. HE WAS
FACED WITH SHARP BUT NOT UNSYMPATHETIC QUESTIONS. HOUSE
SPEAKER WRIGHT ALSO HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE ON JULY 4
DURING WHICH HE MADE CLEAR TO A LARGE GROUP OF BRITISH
AND AMERICAN JOURNALISTS THAT ON SUCH ISSUES ONE CAN
EXPECT A BIPARTISAN REACTION BY AMERICANS.

8. AS A RESULT OF THE FULL AND DETAILED EXPLANATIONS

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COMING FROM WASHINGTON AND HERE IN LONDON, THE REACTION
ON THE PART OF THOSE WHO MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO SEIZE THE
ISSUE FOR THEIR OWN ADVANTAGE WAS AT FIRST RELATIVELY
MUTE. FOR EXAMPLE, THE BRITISH TRADE UNION CONGRESS
(TUC) WHICH UNDER PRESSURE FROM ITS HARD LEFT AND PEACE
ACTIVISTS IS USUALLY QUICK TO ISSUE STATEMENTS
CONDEMNING VIOLENT INCIDENTS, SAID NOTHING AFTER ITS
JULY 4 GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING.

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9. THE PRIME MINISTER NO DOUBT WILL BE FACED WITH SOME SHARP QUESTIONING WHEN SHE APPEARS AT QUESTION TIME IN PARLIAMENT ON THE AFTERNOON OF JULY 5. THE LABOR PARTY MAY PRESS ITS PREFERENCE FOR A FORCE IN THE GULF UNDER A UN UMBRELLA. SHADOW FOREIGN SECRETARY GERALD KAUFMAN TOLD A GROUP OF AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN IN LONDON ON JULY 5 THAT MRS. THATCHER'S INSTANT REACTION IN SUPPORT OF THE U.S. HAD BEEN "FOOLISH AND RECKLESS" AND DID NOT BEGIN TO MEASURE UP TO THE GRAVITY OF THE EVENT. HE SAID THAT THE DOWNING OF THE PLANE CONFIRMED THE WARNINGS GIVEN BY THE LABOR PARTY A YEAR AGO THAT THE SITUATION IN THE GULF WAS A "DISASTER WAITING TO HAPPEN."

10. PRESS REPORTS SUGGEST THAT THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY AND HIS STAFF HAVE BEEN "DISMAYED" BY THE GOVERNMENT'S PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THE INCIDENT. THEY
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BELIEVE THE EVENTS OF THE WEEKEND WILL SLOW THE RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES -- INCLUDING TERRY WAITE -- AND WILL INCREASE IRANIAN HOSTILITY TOWARD BRITAIN. CHURCH OF ENGLAND OFFICIALS NOW FEAR THAT RECENT INITIATIVES TO ACCELERATE THE RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES MAY HAVE BEEN WASTED. SEVERAL FORMER BRITISH OFFICIALS, INCLUDING SIR ANTHONY PARSONS, A FORMER BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO IRAN, HAVE PREDICTED THAT THE INCIDENT WOULD "MAKE IT VERY DIFFICULT FOR THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT TO PURSUE THE POLICY OF OPENING DOORS TO THE WEST."
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	PM-10	PA-01	OMB-01	INRE-00	USIE-00	SP-02	SNP-01
	C-01	PRS-01	DS-01	DSE-00	P-02	T-01	/056 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5198
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RIYADH
AMEMBASSY LONDON

DEPARTMENT OF STATE 920393

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Date. 9/18/96

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LONDON FOR RAPHAEL

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, MU, IR, US
SUBJ: IRAN AIR: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH ACTING FONMIN

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT)

2. AMBASSADOR MET WITH ACTING MINISTER OF STATE FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS SAYYID HAYTHEM BIN TARIQ ON THE MORNING
OF THE 4TH. DISCUSSION, OF COURSE, CENTERED ON THE
DOWNING OF THE IRAN AIR COMMERCIAL FLIGHT IN THE
PERSIAN GULF.

3. HAYTHEM'S REACTION WAS RESTRAINED AND LOW-KEY AND
CONSISTED PRIMARILY OF REQUESTS FOR DETAILS.
AMBASSADOR, SAYING THAT HE HAD NO FIRM INFORMATION

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PAGE 02 MUSCAT 03798 040941Z

THAT WENT BEYOND THAT CONTAINED IN THE CJCS PRESS
CONFERENCE, ANSWERED SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ON WARNINGS
DIRECTED AT THE AIRCRAFT AND AIRCRAFT'S FLIGHT PROFILE
AS DESCRIBED IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE.

4. TO HAYTHEM'S QUESTION ON THE REACTION WE
ANTICIPATED FROM IRAN IN RESPONSE TO THE INCIDENT,
AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT IRAN WOULD REACT
TO IT FOR WHAT IT IS--A TRAGIC AND REGRETTABLE ACCIDENT--

PAGE NO. 1

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AND NOT COMPOUND THE TRAGEDY BY MAKING IT A CAUSE FOR
FURTHER CONFRONTATION AND VIOLENCE. RECALLING

5. AMBASSADOR ADVISED HAYTHEM THAT HE INTENDED TO
CANCEL TODAY'S SHERATON HOTEL FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION
IN THE BELIEF THAT IT WOULD APPEAR INSENSITIVE AND
UNSEEMLY TO CELEBRATE A NATIONAL HOLIDAY IN THE WAKE OF
AND IN PROXIMITY TO SO TRAGIC AN INCIDENT. HAYTHEM
AGREED AND SAID IT WOULD BE A FITTING GESTURE UNDER
THE CIRCUMSTANCES.
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~**EXCISE**PAGE 01 ABU DH 03809 01 OF 02 051357Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-10	SS-00	CIAE-00	EB-00	H-01
	MSC-01	IO-19	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	SSO-00	HA-09	L-03
	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-01	FAAE-00	DOFE-00	OMB-01	INRE-00
	ACDA-12	SP-02	SNP-01	C-01	PRS-01	DS-01	DSE-00
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O 051351Z JUL 88

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0828

INFO USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE

CJTTFME IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

JCS WASHDC PRIORITY

USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 3948

GULFWAR COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE 9203931

IS/FPC/CDR P88

Date. 9/18/96

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 ABU DHABI 03809

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: MOPS, PTER, PREL, EAIR, TC, IR, US

SUBJECT: LOCAL REACTION TO IRAN AIR TRAGEDY - DAY TWO

REFS: A) ABU DHABI 3782, B) ABU DHABI 3783

- C) ABU DHABI 3784, D) ABU DHABI 3789

1. (U) JULY 5 LOCAL PRESS IS AGAIN DOMINATED BY DOWNING OF IRAN AIR FLIGHT, WITH EMPHASIS ON LOCAL AND WORLD RESPONSE TO INCIDENT. REPORTS INCLUDE ACCOUNTS, WITH PICTURES, OF IRANIAN PRAYER MEETINGS IN DUBAI, ATTENDED BY MEMBERS OF LOCAL IRANIAN COMMUNITY, WITH DUBAI-BASED IRANIAN CONSUL-GENERAL AHMAD ASHRAF ESLAMI, ABU DHABI-BASED IRANIAN AMBASSADOR MUSTAFA FUMANI HAERI, AND DUBAI-BASED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AYATOLLAH, REZA BORGHAI, ADDRESSING THE VARIOUS MEETINGS. PAMPHLETS SAID TO BE DISTRIBUTED ON BEHALF OF THE IRANIAN CONSUL GENERAL

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CONDEMNED AMERICAN ARROGANCE. POSTER IN A MOSQUE SAID "DEATH TO AMERICA," ACCORDING TO ONE PRESS ACCOUNT.

2. (U) PAPERS HAVE PUBLISHED PASSENGER LIST OF THE PLANE, WITH ACCOUNTS OF NATIONALITIES OF THOSE BODIES SO FAR RECOVERED (168 REPORTED AS OF JULY 5) (SEPTTEL).

3. (U) IRANIAN AMBASSADOR HELD PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 4. HE CLAIMED IRANIAN RIGHT TO RETALIATE AT THE APPROPRIATE

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TIME AND SAID THE INCIDENT WAS NOT A MISTAKE. REGARDING INITIAL U.S. CLAIMS IT HAD DOWNED AN F-14, IRANIAN AMBASSADOR SAID THIS COULD BE ACCEPTED IF THE U.S. WERE NOT THE COUNTRY WHICH PRODUCED THE F-14. BUT, UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO CALL IT A MISTAKE. THE ACTION IS PART OF AN AMERICAN PLOT AGAINST THE ISLAMIC REVOLUTION AND THE MUSLIM NATION. IRAN WOULD ACCEPT A U.S. APOLOGY ONLY IF IT CHANGED ITS POLICY IN THE GULF AND STOPPED INTERFERING IN THE REGION. THIS SAVAGE ACT PROVES THAT THE PRESENCE OF ALIEN FORCES POSES A SECURITY THREAT TO THE REGION, HE SAID.

4. (U) REPRESENTATIVE HEADLINES IN THE ARABIC PRESS INCLUDE:

-- THE SEMI-OFFICIAL ARABIC DAILY AL-ITTIHAD:

"210 BODIES RECOVERED IN IRAN AIR TRAGEDY AMONG WHICH ARE 12 UAE NATIONALS; THE UAE EXPRESSES REGRET AND RENEWS THE CALL FOR CEASE WAR; REAGAN CONFIRMS: WE WILL NOT WITHDRAW FROM THE GULF AND TEHRAN CALLS FOR ALL-OUT WAR AGAINST THE U.S.; MOSCOW CONSIDERS ACCIDENT 'DELIBERATE MASS MURDER' AND REITERATES ITS PROPOSAL TO FORM AN INTERNATIONAL FORCE TO SECURE NAVIGATION IN THE GULF"

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-- THE OFFICIAL ARABIC DAILY OF DUBAI, AL-BAYAN:

"THE WORLD REGRETS THE AIRLINER TRAGEDY AND KHOMEINI CALLS FOR ALL-OUT WAR AGAINST US; TEHRAN REQUESTS INTERNATIONAL CONDEMNATION FOR WASHINGTON; DE CUELLAR: I CANNOT BUT CONDEMN WHAT SEEMS TO BE A DISASTROUS MISTAKE; REAGAN: I DEMANDED INVESTIGATION AND AM NOT MINIMIZING THE SIZE OF THE TRAGEDY."

-- THE SHARJAH-BASED ARABIC DAILY, AL-KHALEEJ:

"REAGAN REJUSTIFIES THE DOWNING OF THE AIRLINER; IRANIAN LEADERS CALL FOR ALL-OUT WAR AGAINST THE U.S.; TEHRAN STARTS AN INTENSIVE DIPLOMATIC MOVE.. DEMANDS COMPENSATION AND PROSECUTION OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DISASTER."

5. (U) ARABIC EDITORIAL COMMENT INCLUDES AL-ITTIHAD'S SUPPORT FOR THE OFFICIAL UAE STATEMENT OF REGRET WHICH CALLS FOR AN END TO THE WAR (REF D). AL-BAYAN'S EDITORIAL ATTRIBUTES THE INCIDENT TO THE FEAR THAT HAUNTS THE U.S. NAVY OF A REPETITION OF THE STARK INCIDENT. IT CALLS FOR GREATER SELF CONTROL AND RESPONSIBILITY.

6. (U) SOME NEWSPAPERS, AS WELL AS LOCAL TELEVISION OF JULY 4, INCLUDE GRIM PICTURES OF BODIES, INCLUDING THOSE OF CHILDREN, FLOATING IN THE WATER.

7. (U) PAPERS CARRY U.S. EMBASSY EXPRESSION OF CONDOLENCE

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TO THOSE AFFECTED BY THE DISASTER (REF A).

8. (C) AMBASSADOR IS SPENDING TWO DAYS IN DUBAI AND
WILL BE REPORTING SEPTEL ON THURSDAY.

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ACTION NEA-11

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	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-01	FAAE-00	DOE-00	OMB-01	INRE-00
	ACDA-12	SP-02	SNP-01	C-01	PRS-01	DS-01	DSE-00
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O 051351Z JUL 88
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0829
INFO USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE
CJTFME IMMEDIATE
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
JCS WASHDC PRIORITY
USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 3949
GULFWAR COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 ABU DHABI 03809

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: MOPS, PTER, PREL, EAIR, TC, IR, US
SUBJECT: LOCAL REACTION TO IRAN AIR TRAGEDY - DAY TWO

11. (C) COMMENT: ALL-IN-ALL, LOCAL RESPONSES, AND MEDIA
COVERAGE THEREOF, HAVE BEEN MODERATE AND CONTROLLED, WITH
THE PREDICTABLE EXCEPTION OF DUBAI'S IRAN COMMUNITY.
THE UAE'S MODERATE AND UNDERSTANDING OFFICIAL STATEMENT

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(REF D) HELPS TO KEEP LOCAL EMOTIONS UNDER CONTROL.
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ACTION 10-19

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-07 SS-00 OIC-02 CIAE-00 EB-00
NEA-04 NSAE-00 COME-00 L-03 PM-10 FAAE-00 DOTE-00
STR-18 INRE-00 FCSC-01 ACDA-12 JUSE-00 DS-01 SCT-03
E-01 /081 W

221265 251522Z /46 38

R 251257Z SEP 89
FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4329
INFO FAA WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC

DEPARTMENT OF STATE 920393/

IS/FPC/CDR 188

Date. 9/18/96

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 MONTREAL 03048

FROM USMISSION ICAO

STATE FOR IO AND EB/TRA/AVP

FAA FOR API-1, AIA-100 AND AGC-7

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: AORC, EAIR, ICAO, IR
SUBJECT: IR 655 SHOOTDOWN

THE FOLLOWING IS A USMISSION TRANSCRIPT OF THAT PORTION
OF IRAN'S STATEMENT TO THE ICAO ASSEMBLY WHICH REFERS TO
THE IR 655 SHOOTDOWN. THE STATEMENT WAS MADE SEPTEMBER
22, 1989.

"MR. PRESIDENT, AMONG MANY CASES OF ACTS OF VIOLENCE AND
UNLAWFUL INTERFERENCE THE AVIATION BOARD (OF IRAN) HAS
UNFORTUNATELY FACED DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS SINCE THE
PREVIOUS ASSEMBLY, THE TRAGIC DOWNING OF IRAN AIRBUS
FLIGHT 655 ON JULY 3, 1988 IS THE MOST OUTRAGEOUS AND
SENSELESS CRIME COMMITTED BY THE U.S., VIOLATING THE
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IRANIAN AIRSPACE, DESTROYING THE AIRCRAFT AND TAKING THE
LIVES OF 290 INNOCENT PASSENGERS AND CREW. THE COMMIT-
TING OF SUCH A GRAVE CRIME BY THE UNITED STATES IS A
CLEAR INDICATION OF THE CONTRADICTIONARY POSITIONS TAKEN
BY THE U.S. IN RESPECT OF THEIR INSISTENCE ON CODIFYING
THE EXISTING PRINCIPLES OF THE CHICAGO CONVENTION IN
ARTICLE 3 BIS OF THE CHICAGO CONVENTION, WHICH RECOGNIZES
THAT STATES MUST REFRAIN FROM RESORTING TO THE USE OF
ARMED FORCE AGAINST CIVIL AIRCRAFT IN FLIGHT.

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"AT THE REQUEST OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN THE FATAL INCIDENT WAS INVESTIGATED AND CONSIDERED BY THE COUNCIL OF ICAO IN THREE ... SESSIONS, AND IN SPITE OF THE FOLLOWING FACTS ... THE ... WAS A COMMERCIAL AIRLINER IT WAS OPERATING A ... PASSENGER FLIGHT BETWEEN BANDAR ABBAS AND DUBAI. THE FLIGHT TOOK OFF FROM AN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. IT WAS OPERATING WELL WITHIN INTERNATIONAL AIRWAYS. THE FLIGHT WAS WITHIN IRANIAN FIR THE PLANE WAS TECHNICALLY AIRWORTHY ... MODE A CODE 6760. THE CODE WAS QUALIFIED AND CERTIFIED FOR ... THE ONLY CHALLENGE TO FLIGHT IR 655 WAS ON INTERNATIONAL AIR FREQUENCY SENT TOO LATE TO BE KINDLY TAKEN UP BY THE FLIGHT. A FEW EARLIER WARNINGS WERE EITHER ON MILITARY FREQUENCIES OR NOT AIMED AT IR 655. THE POSITION OF THE U.S. WARSHIPS AT THE TIME OF THE SHOOTING DOWN IR 655 AND THE CRASH SITE WAS STILL WITHIN IRANIAN INTERNATIONAL SEA AND ... OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN. IT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED THAT CONTINUALLY TODAY THE PROVISIONS OF ANNEX 15 WHICH PLACES THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROMULGATION OF INFORMATION NECESSARY FOR THE SAFETY OF AIR NAVIGATION IN A GIVEN AREA ON THE AERONAUTICAL INFORMATION SERVICE ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROVISION OF AIR TRAFFIC SERVICES.

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"THE UNITED STATES PROMULGATED AN ILLEGAL NOTAM IN 1984 FOR THE PERSIAN GULF AREA REQUIRING AIRCRAFT TO AVOID FLYING LESS THAN 2000 FEET ALTITUDE AND 5 NAUTICAL MILES DISTANCE FROM THE UNITED STATES WARSHIPS AND SO CONSTITUTED PRECAUTION. OUR AIRBUS WAS BEYOND THE RANGE AND ALTITUDE TO WHICH THE UNITED STATES FORCES SAID OFFENSIVE MEASURES WOULD BE APPLIED.

"CAPTAIN ?ELLIS R. PARSON?, THE UNITED STATES NAVY COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE U.S.S. SIDES IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY BULLETIN DISCUSSION UNDER THE TITLE 'THE VINCENNES INCIDENT' HAS ELABORATED THE WHOLE SITUATION ON JULY 3, 1988. ... CONCLUDED THAT THE INCIDENT WAS AVOIDABLE. I QUOTE HIS CONCLUDING STATEMENT. 'WE MUST NOT CONCEDE THAT ACCIDENTS, TRAGIC ACCIDENTS LIKE THIS ONE ARE UNAVOIDABLE. THAT IS A COPOUT. THIS TRAGEDY WAS AVOIDABLE.'

"THE COUNCIL OF ICAO CONCLUDED ITS CONSIDERATION AND DELIBERATIONS ON SUCH AN APPALLING INCIDENT BY ADOPTING A ERRONEOUS DECISION THAT FOUND THE UNITED STATES ACTION A CONSEQUENCE OF EVENTS AND ERRORS IN IDENTIFICATION RESULTING IN THE ACCIDENTAL DESTRUCTION OF AN IRAN AIR AIRLINER AND THE LOSS OF 290 LIVES. THAT POSITION NEITHE ... NOR EXPECTATIONS FOR A JUST AND ... JUDGEMENT NOR THA

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OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY ... MY DELEGATION, MR. PRESIDENT,
IS OF THE STRONG OPINION THAT IF THE WORST MILITARY ATTACK
BY THE U.S. NAVY AGAINST A CIVILIAN AIRLINER IN HISTORY IS
NOT UTILIZED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS THE
STRONGEST MEANS OF PROTECTING CIVIL AVIATION, THAT IS IF
ICAO FAILS TO RESPOND APPROPRIATELY TO THE SERIOUS CONCERN
OF INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION FOLLOWING THIS TRAGEDY THE

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PAGE 01 MONTRE 03048 02 OF 02 251322Z
ACTION IO-19

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-07 SS-00 OIC-02 CIAE-00 EB-00
NEA-04 NSAE-00 COME-00 L-03 AMAD-01 PM-10 FAAE-00
DOTE-00 STR-18 INRE-00 FCSC-01 ACDA-12 JUSE-00 DS-01
SCT-03 E-01 /082 W

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R 251257Z SEP 89
FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4330
INFO FAA WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 MONTREAL 03048

FROM USMISSION ICAO

STATE FOR IO AND EB/TRA/AVP

FAA FOR API-1, AIA-100 AND AGC-7

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: AORC, EAIR, ICAO, IR
SUBJECT: IR 655 SHOOTDOWN

WE SHOULD ANNOUNCE WITH SADNESS THE WAY IS PAVED FOR FUTUR
COMMITTING OF SIMILAR OUTRAGEOUS ACTIONS. THEREFORE,
INDEED IT IS AN OBLIGATION OF THE ASSEMBLY TO TAKE THE
NECESSARY ACTION REQUIRED FOR THE PREVENTION OF
RECURRENCE OF SUCH INCIDENTS.

"AS A RESULT OF POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS ... THE ATTITUDES
OF INTERNATIONAL BODIES AND CANNOT ADEQUATELY JUSTIFY
ACTION AGAINST THE BREACH OF PRINCIPLE OF CIVIL AVIATION
THEN THE DANGER TO CIVIL AIRCRAFT CONTINUES TO EXIST AND
EVEN NOW CIVILIAN FLIGHTS OPERATING OVER THE PERSIAN GULF
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ARE CHALLENGED BY THE UNITED STATES NAVAL FORCES
STATIONED IN THE AREA MOSTLY ON MILITARY AIR DISTRESS
FREQUENCIES.

"... (NEW SUBJECT)" STOHR

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PAGE 01 THE HA 07063 01 OF 02 050937Z
ACTION L-03

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 EUR-00 OIC-02 IO-19 NEA-06 SSO-00
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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8366
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 THE HAGUE 07063

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: ICJ, IR, US
SUBJECT: ICJ: MEETING ON IRAN AIR CASE

1. (~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. SUMMARY: AT A MEETING OF THE U.S. AND IRANIAN AGENTS WITH THE ICJ PRESIDENT, THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING AN INITIAL PROCEEDING DEVOTED SOLELY TO PRELIMINARY OBJECTIONS WAS CONSIDERED BUT NO AGREEMENT WAS REACHED. THE AGENTS WILL MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT AGAIN ON SEPTEMBER 12. IN THE DISCUSSION, IRAN'S REPRESENTATIVES INDICATED THAT IRAN CONSIDERED THE CURRENT U.S. COMPENSATION EFFORT TO CONSTITUTE INTERFERENCE. HOWEVER, THEY ALSO INDICATED A DESIRE TO USE THE ICJ LITIGATION AS A CHANNEL FOR DISCUSSION OF THAT MATTER.
END SUMMARY.

3. AT THE REQUEST OF ICJ PRESIDENT RUDA, THE U.S. AND IRANIAN AGENTS IN THE IRAN AIR CASE MET WITH RUDA TO DISCUSS PROCEDURE IN THE CASE. IRANIAN AGENT ESHRAGH WAS ACCOMPANIED BY TWO COLLEAGUES (AMELI AND MOHAMMADI), WHILE U.S. AGENT SOFAER WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE U.S. AGENT TO THE IRAN-U.S. CLAIMS TRIBUNAL (RAMISH).

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4. RUDA BEGAN BY NOTING THAT THE U.S. HAD SENT A LETTER TO THE COURT INDICATING ITS INTENT TO FILE PRELIMINARY OBJECTIONS. HE SAID THAT IN THE COURT'S PRACTICE, THE APPLICANT GENERALLY SUBMITTED A MEMORIAL ON BOTH JURISDICTION AND THE MERITS, AND IF THE RESPONDENT THEN FILED A PRELIMINARY OBJECTION, THE COURT WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE WHETHER TO DEVOTE ITS ATTENTION EXCLUSIVELY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE 920393/ IS/FPC/CDR *JS* Date: *9/18/96*

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TO THE PRELIMINARY OBJECTION (WHICH IS NORMALLY THE COURT'S PREFERENCE) OR CONSIDER THE PRELIMINARY OBJECTION TOGETHER WITH THE MERITS. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE SAID, IT WAS ALSO POSSIBLE FOR THE PARTIES TO AGREE AT THE OUTSET TO HAVE A PROCEEDING JUST ON PRELIMINARY OBJECTIONS PRIOR TO ANY PLEADINGS ON THE MERITS (THIS WAS THE PROCEDURE IN THE NICARAGUA V. HONDURAS CASE). RUDA CONFIRMED WITH SOFAER THAT THE U.S. INTENDED TO HAVE AN INITIAL PROCEEDING DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO PRELIMINARY OBJECTIONS ON JURISDICTION AND ADMISSIBILITY. RUDA THEN ASKED FOR IRAN'S VIEWS ON THE MATTER.

5. ESHRAGH AND AMELI SAID THAT THE ISSUE OF PRELIMINARY OBJECTIONS HAD ONLY BEEN RAISED BY THE U.S. LETTER VERY RECENTLY. THEY SAID THEY DID NOT WANT TO SEPARATE JURISDICTION FROM THE MERITS IN THE CASE. BUT WITH SOME PRODDING FROM RUDA, THEY INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD CONSIDER THE MATTER FURTHER. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE PARTIES' REPRESENTATIVES WOULD MEET WITH RUDA AGAIN ON SEPTEMBER 12 AT 5:00 P.M.

6. SOFAER NOTED THAT THE U.S. HAD MADE AN OFFER
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OF EX GRATIA COMPENSATION, AND IN THAT CONNECTION HE SAID THAT THE U.S. HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY IRANIAN NATIONALS WHO WERE INTERESTED IN RECEIVING PAYMENT. HE SAID THAT THE U.S. INTENDED TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS WITH THESE INDIVIDUALS OUT OF HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS, BUT HE WANTED IRAN AND THE COURT TO BE ASSURED THAT THIS EFFORT WAS NOT INTENDED TO INTERFERE WITH THE ICJ LITIGATION. HE SAID THE U.S. WOULD WELCOME IRAN'S COOPERATION.

7. AMELI RESPONDED THAT IRAN CONSIDERED THE U.S. EFFORT TO PROVIDE COMPENSATION TO BE INTERFERENCE WITH IRAN'S AFFAIRS AND WITH THE ICJ PROCEEDING. DISCUSSIONS OF SETTLEMENT OR PARTIAL SETTLEMENT, HE SAID, SHOULD BE LIMITED TO THE PARTIES AND SHOULD NOT BE CONDUCTED WITH THE INDIVIDUALS. HE SAID IRAN WOULD WELCOME DIRECT TALKS ON THE OFFER BUT REGARDED PUBLIC STATEMENTS OR THE ICJ'S INVOLVEMENT AS IMPROPER.

8. ON THE MARGINS OF THE MEETING, SOFAER ASKED THE IRANIANS WHY, IF THEY WELCOMED DISCUSSIONS ON EX GRATIA PAYMENTS, THEY HAD NOT RESPONDED TO THE U.S. OFFER OF COMPENSATION COMMUNICATED THROUGH THE SWISS. THEY ANSWERED THAT IRAN ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE ICJ CASE AND PREFERRED TO DEAL

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 89THE HA007063

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WITH THE COMPENSATION ISSUE THROUGH THE CHANNELS
NOW ESTABLISHED TO DEAL WITH THAT LITIGATION.
SOFAR SAID HE WOULD REPORT IRAN'S COMMENTS TO THE
USG.

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 89THE HA007063

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PAGE 01 THE HA 07063 02 OF 02 050936Z
ACTION L-03

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 EUR-00 OIC-02 IO-19 NEA-06 SSO-00
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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8367

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 THE HAGUE 07063

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: ICJ, IR, US
SUBJECT: ICJ: MEETING ON IRAN AIR CASE

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	PM-10	PA-02	OMB-01	INM-07	INRE-00	ACDA-12	USIE-00
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	P-02	T-01	/071 W				

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5399
INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 14825

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PREL, IR, PK, US

SUBJECT: PAKISTANI SENATE CONDEMNS U.S. DOWNING OF
- IRANIAN AIRBUS

1. IN THE FIRST MEETING OF THE SENATE AFTER THE DISMISSAL OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, SENATORS SAYED ABBAS SHAH, JAVED JABBAR, AND MOHAMMAD TARIQ PUT FORTH A MOTION THAT THE U.S. BE CONDEMNED FOR THE SHOOTING DOWN OF THE IRANIAN AIRBUS JULY 3. SENATOR CHAUDHRY STATED THAT "THE DEATH OF 298 CIVILIANS IN THE NEIGHBORING ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN WAS A MATTER OF DEEP CONCERN FOR THE PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN", AND THAT THE MOTION SHOULD BE GIVEN PRIORITY OVER OTHER MATTERS. THE SENATE HAS DECIDED TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE WITHIN THE NEXT FEW SITTINGS.

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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 14825 111230Z

2. WE PLAN TO MONITOR THE SENATE'S DEBATE. RAPHEL##

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UNCLASSIFIEDPAGE 01 BELGRA 07610 01 OF 02 150914Z
ACTION L-03INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 EUR-00 DODE-00 H-01 SCT-02 /006 W
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R 150911Z JUL 89

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3678

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BELGRADE 07610

DEPARTMENT OF STATE 9203931 IS/FPC/CDR

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FOR L/CID JESSICA HOLMES

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, PREL, IR, YO, US

SUBJECT: IRAN AIR FLIGHT 655

REF: (A) JULY 14 RYERSON/HOLMES TELCON; (B) BELGRADE 7556

1. SUMMARY: CONGEN MET WITH YUGOSLAV FEDERAL SECRETARIAT FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (FSFA) OFFICIAL AND TWO REPS OF FIRM WHICH HAD EMPLOYED ALL SIX YUGOSLAV VICTIMS OF IRAN AIR FLIGHT 655 TRAGEDY. HE PRESENTED NON-PAPER LAYING OUT TERMS OF PROPOSED EX GRATIA PAYMENT. BOTH FSFA REP AND OFFICIALS OF FIRM SAID THEY WOULD DEFER TO WISHES OF FAMILIES. OFFICIALS OF FIRM POINTED OUT AVERAGE SETTLEMENT TO SURVIVORS OF U.S.S. STARK AVERAGED 739,000 DOLLARS PER FAMILY. THEY AND FSFA REP EXPRESSED PREFERENCE FOR PAYMENT BEING EFFECTED THROUGH ATTORNEYS FOR FAMILIES. FSFA REP EXPRESSED APPRECIATION THAT, AS HE PUT IT, SOMETHING CONCRETE HAD BEEN DONE, AND THAT THE DISCUSSION IS NOW ABOUT "REAL FIGURES". END SUMMARY.

2. CONGEN MET JULY 14 WITH MILOS BOGICEVIC, AN OFFICIAL OF THE CONSULAR AFFAIRS SECTION OF THE YUGOSLAV FSFA (USUAL INTERLOCUTOR IS ON SUMMER HOLIDAY). BOGICEVIC HAD REQUESTED TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FIRM WHICH HAD EM-
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PLOYED THE SIX YUGOSLAV VICTIMS TO BE PRESENT AS WELL. CONGEN OUTLINED THE TERMS OF THE PROPOSED EX GRATIA PAYMENT AND LEFT A NON-PAPER EXPLAINING METHODOLOGY OF PROPOSED DIVISION AMONG YUGOSLAV SURVIVORS. HE ALSO EXPLAINED THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO SHIFT FROM A VICTIM-SPECIFIC TO A LUMP SUM CALCULATION IN THE INTEREST OF SPEED. HE ALSO STRESSED THAT, AS A CONDITION OF THE ACCEPTANCE OF THIS SCHEME, THE U.S.G. WOULD WANT FINAL RELEASE STATEMENTS SIGNED BY THE FAMILIES (THE RECIPIENTS

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OF PAYMENTS) AND FROM THE G.O.Y.

3. BRANKO SIMIC, ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE IVAN MILUTINOVIC FIRM, SAID HE WAS INTERESTED TO HEAR THE PROPOSAL, AND THAT WHILE THE FIRM EXPECTED THE WISHES OF THE FAMILIES TO BE THE DECIDING FACTOR, HE WOULD HAVE MUCH PREFERRED THE VICTIM-SPECIFIC CALCULATIONS. SIMIC POINTED OUT THAT THE MATERIAL SITUATIONS OF THE FAMILIES VARIES CONSIDERABLY, AND THAT THE FUTURE NEEDS OF THE FAMILIES WERE ALSO DISPARATE. HE SAID HE BELIEVED THE FAMILIES PREFERENCE WOULD BE FOR PAYMENTS TO COME THROUGH THEIR ATTORNEYS. SIMIC SAID THE FIRM OF KREINDLER AND KREINDLER IN NEW YORK REPRESENTED FIVE OF THE SIX FAMILIES. THE SIXTH, THE NESKOVIC FAMILY, HAD DECLINED TO JOIN WITH THE OTHERS AND THE FIRM AND HAD RETAINED AN ATTORNEY IN CALIFORNIA. SIMIC SAID HE BELIEVES THAT THE LAW SUIT MENTIONED IN REFTELCON WAS FILED ON BEHALF OF NESKOVIC.

4. SIMIC TABLED A COPY OF A LOS ANGELES TIMES ARTICLE ON THE SETTLEMENT REACHED FOR SURVIVORS OF THE U.S.S. STARK, AND DREW SPECIFIC ATTENTION TO THE REPORTED 739,000 DOLLAR AVERAGE-PER-FAMILY PAYMENT. SIMIC MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE REGARDED THE 250,000 OFFER AS TOO LITTLE, POINTING OUT THAT "SAILORS DON'T EARN ALL THAT MUCH", AND THAT SEVERAL OF THE YUGOSLAV VICTIMS WERE EARNING CONSIDERABLY MORE THAN THE
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SAILORS MUST HAVE BEEN GETTING AS PAY. CONGEN COMMENTED AT THAT POINT THAT THE LIFETIME MEDICAL BENEFITS WHICH ACCRUE TO U.S. SERVICEMEN WERE DOUBTLESS A FACTOR IN CALCULATING THE PAYMENTS, AS WERE OTHER, NON-SALARY BENEFITS. WHILE SIMIC ACKNOWLEDGED THE POINT, IT WAS CLEAR THAT HE FELT THE YUGOSLAV FAMILIES WOULD LIKELY RECEIVE MORE IF VICTIM-SPECIFIC CALCULATIONS WERE MADE.

5. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, SIMIC SAID THE INFORMATION SOUGHT IN STATE TELEGRAM 178547 WAS EXPECTED TO BE READY BY JULY 19 OR 20. WE WILL FORWARD IT WHEN IT IS RECEIVED.

6. BOGICEVIC AND SIMIC BOTH UNDERSTOOD THAT THE DEPARTMENT WAS SIMULTANEOUSLY INFORMING KREINDLER OF THIS OFFER; THEIR UNDERSTANDING WAS BASED ON A REPORT FROM THE YUGOSLAV EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON.

7. AT SPECIFIC REQUEST OF CONGEN, BOGICEVIC UNDERTOOK TO CONVEY OFFER TO NESKOVIC FAMILY; SIMIC WILL CONVEY IT TO THE OTHER FIVE FAMILIES.

8. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE ATMOSPHERE WAS CORDIAL (AS INDEED IT HAS BEEN IN ALL DISCUSSIONS AT FSFA ON THE SUBJECT) IT WAS CLEAR THAT THERE WAS DISAPPOINTMENT IN THE AMOUNT OFFERED. BOGICEVIC EXPRESSED APPRECIATION ON BEHALF OF THE GOY FOR THE "CONCRETE STEP FORWARD" WHICH THE OFFER REPRESENTS, AND CONFIRMED AGAIN THAT THE GOY WOULD BE

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 89BELGRAD 7610

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GUIDED BY THE WISHES OF THE FAMILIES. WE MAY GET A
RESPONSE FROM PSFA ONCE THE FAMILIES HAVE BEEN CONSULTED,
BUT IT SEEMS MORE LIKELY TO US THAT THE RESPONSE MAY BE
DELIVERED, AT LEAST ON BEHALF OF FIVE OF THE SIX FAMILIES,
THROUGH THE KREINDLER FIRM.

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 89BELGRA007610

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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BELGRADE 07610

FOR L/CID JESSICA HOLMES

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: MOPS, PREL, IR, YO, US
SUBJECT: IRAN AIR FLIGHT 655

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E.O. 12356: N/A
 TAGS: SOPN
 SUBJECT:

HIGHLIGHTS OF SATURDAY, JULY 9, EVENING TV NEWS

A. ABC WORLD NEWS

1. FLIGHT 655 - THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION IS UNDECIDED WHETHER TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL COMPENSATION TO THE FAMILIES OF THE 290 VICTIMS OF LAST WEEK'S IRANIAN AIR TRAGEDY. WHITE HOUSE AND STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS HAVE STRONGLY URGED PRESIDENT REAGAN TO MAKE THE HUMANITARIAN GESTURE WHICH THEY ALSO BELIEVE COULD LEAD TO A NEW POLITICAL DIALOGUE WITH TEHRAN. (CAROLE SIMPSON)

2. PERSIAN GULF - THE U.S.S BRADLEY, ESCORTING ONE OF IT'S OWN SUPPLY TANKERS, KEPT A ABC NEWS HELICOPTER FIVE MILES AWAY FOR AN HOUR BEFORE LETTING IT COME IN FOR A CLOSE LOOK. PILOTS OF IRAN AIR ARE TAKING NO CHANCES. IN SPITE OF ALL THE NERVOUSNESS TANKER TRAFFIC CONTINUES
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PAGE 02 STATE 221734 TOSEC 140259

NORMALLY. IRAN IS TRYING TO FOCUS ANGER OVER THE AIRBUS INCIDENT ON THE WAR EFFORT WITH IRAG AND SAID RELATIVELY LITTLE ABOUT THE U.S. NAVY OR THE UNITED STATES TODAY.

WHILE THE IRANIANS ARE TONING DOWN THEIR RHETORIC ABOUT RETALIATION AGAINST THE U.S. THEY STILL WANT THE NAVY OUT OF THE THE PERSIAN GULF WATERS. THAT'S A VIEW NOT SHARED ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GULF. THE CROWN PRINCE OF KUWAIT IS ON HIS WAY TO WASHINGTON TODAY TO ASK THE

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REAGAN ADMINISTRATION TO RENEW JIM'S COMMITMENT IN THE
PERSIAN GULF. (JIM HICKEY, PERSIAN GULF)

B. CBS NEWS TONIGHT

1. IRAN - IRANIAN LEADERS SEEMS TO BE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE ATTACK IS A MISTAKE, NOT A DELIBERATE ACT OF WAR. INSTEAD OF DEMANDING A POUND OF FLESH THEY SEEM NOW TO BE WILLING TO SETTLE FOR POLITICAL PROFIT, SAYING TODAY, "GET THE AMERICANS OUT OF THE GULF THEY SAY AND MISTAKES WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN." TO GET THIS MESSAGE ACROSS THEY TURNED A TRAGEDY INTO A MEDIA EVENT, SHOWING FOREIGN JOURNALISTS BODIES OF VICTIMS OF SO CALLED AMERICAN AGGRESSION AND GIVING THEM GRANDSTAND POSITIONS AT THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL. ALL THESE YEARS OF HATRED AND RHETORIC AND ALL THE CRUEL CARTOONS DO NOT REALLY APPEAR TO HAVE MADE THE IRANIAN PEOPLE ANTI-AMERICAN. WITH THE NEW AMERICAN PRESIDENT ABOUT TO BE ELECTED IT MIGHT NOT BE THAT DIFFICULT FOR THE AYATOLLAH TO CHANGE DIRECTION. AT WEEKEND PRAYERS THE HEAD OF THE ARMED FORCES TOLD IRANIANS: "WE MUST AVOID REVENGE. WE MUST NOT LOOK BAD IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD." (BERT QUINT, TEHRAN)

2. MUBARAK COMMENTS ON INCIDENT - MUBARAK SAID TODAY
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THAT IRAN SHARES RESPONSIBILITY WITH THE UNITED STATES FOR LAST SUNDAY'S ATTACK. MUBARAK MADE THE REMARK AFTER A MEETING WITH JORDAN'S KING HUSSEIN. BOTH LEADERS CALLED ON IRAN TO EXCEPT THE UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTION FOR A CEASEFIRE IN THE WAR WITH IRAQ. (BOB SHEIFFER)

3. AIRLINER COMPENSATION - PRESIDENT REAGAN, BELIEVING THAT IT WOULD BE THE RIGHT THING, IS REPORTEDLY ON THE VERGE OF OFFERING HUMANITARIAN PAYMENTS TO THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS OF THE IRAN AIR DISASTER. THE QUESTION OF REPARATIONS HAS DIVIDED THE ADMINISTRATION, THE STATE DEPARTMENT IN FAVOR, DEFENSE DEPARTMENT AGAINST. TODAY, DEFENSE SECRETARY CARLUCCI, IN PHILADELPHIA FOR A SPEECH, BRUSHED ASIDE REPORTERS' QUESTIONS ON PAYMENTS TO THE FAMILIES. OPPONENTS SAY IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO MOVE BEFORE THE VINCENNES INVESTIGATION IS COMPLETED. MANY EXPERTS, LIKE FORMER STATE DEPARTMENT LEGAL ADVISER LEONARD MEEKER, ARGUED FOR A PAYMENT. MEEKER: "I THINK THAT TO PAY SOME COMPENSATION TO THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS WHICH SHOW TO IRAN AND TO THE WORLD THAT THE U.S.

IS A RESPONSIBLE COUNTRY WHICH WILL NEVER CAUSE AN ACCIDENT LIKE THIS IF IT COULD HELP IT." IF THE ADMINISTRATION DOES MAKE PAYMENTS THEY WILL GO TO THE VICTIMS' FAMILIES, NOT TO IRAN'S GOVERNMENT. (ERIC ENGBERG)

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A. NBC NIGHTLY NEWS

1. SOVIET TROOP PULLOUT IN HUNGARY - THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY THE SOVIET UNION MAY BE ON THE VERGE OF PULLING OUT AT LEAST SOME OF THE 65,000 TROOPS IT HAS IN HUNGARY. SOME OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON SAY THE PULLOUT MIGHT BE ANNOUNCED NEXT WEEK AT A WARSAW PACT SUMMIT MEETING WHICH SOVIET LEADER GORBACHEV IS EXPECTED TO ATTEND. MILITARY EXPERTS SAY THE TROOPS REPRESENT A
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SMALL FRACTION OF WARSAW PACT FORCES AND ARE LESS MILITARILY SIGNIFICANT THAN THOSE POSTED DIRECTLY OPPOSITE NATO FORCES IN EAST GERMANY AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA.
(CONNIE CHUNG)

2. IRAN AIR INCIDENT INVESTIGATION - WHEN THE PENTAGON FIRST REVEALED WHAT IT KNEW ABOUT THE IRAN AIR INCIDENT, IT WAS ARMED WITH THE SAME DATA USED BY THE SHIP'S CAPTAIN WHEN HE ORDERED THE PLANE SHOT DOWN. IN BOTH CASES, THE DATA WAS INCOMPLETE AND SOMETIMES WRONG, INCLUDING THE DATA ON ONE CRITICAL DETAIL - WAS THE AIRLINER INSIDE OR OUTSIDE THE CIVILIAN AIR CORRIDOR? DIFFERENT INTERPRETATIONS HAVE BEEN CONVEYED BY THE CAPTAIN AND THE PENTAGON. WAS THERE A MISTAKE OR A COVERUP? EXPERTS CONTEND THAT DETAILS ARE OFTEN THE FIRST CASUALTIES OF COMBAT. TO ADD TO THE CONFUSION, THERE IS PRESSURE FROM THE MEDIA TO AVOID CHARGES OF STONEWALLING. THE NAVY'S INVESTIGATION COULD BE COMPLETED IN THREE WEEKS, BUT UNTIL THEN, MUCH OF WHAT WE HEAR IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. (JIM MIKLASZEWSKI - THE PENTAGON) WHITEHEAD

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E.O. 12356: N/A
 TAGS: PINS, PREL, GC, IR
 SUBJECT: GDR CONDEMNS IRANIAN AIRCRAFT DOWNING

1. GDR REACTION TO THE DOWNING OF THE IRANIAN AIRLINER
 WAS PROMPT AND SHARP. JULY 4 "NEUES DEUTSCHLAND" RAN
 AN ACCOUNT OF THE INCIDENT, NOTING THAT AFTER DAY-LONG
 DENIALS THE PRESIDENT AND JCS CHAIRMAN CROWE HAD AD-
 MITTED THAT THE INCIDENT HAD TAKEN PLACE AND HAD DES-
 CRIBED IT AS A MISTAKE. THE REPORT ALSO NOTED THE
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IRANIAN ASSUMPTION THAT THE U.S. HAD MISTAKEN THE
 PASSENGER AIRCRAFT FOR A MILITARY AIRPLANE.

2. JULY 5 "NEUES DEUTSCHLAND" CARRIED BOTH NEWS AND
 COMMENTARY. HONECKER'S MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCES TO THE
 IRANIAN PRESIDENT RAN ON PAGE ONE, AS DID THE OFFICIAL
 GDR FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT THAT DESCRIBED THE IN-
 CIDENT AS "A FLAGRANT AND UNJUSTIFIABLE BREACH OF INTER-
 NATIONAL LAW." CAPSULE SUMMARIES OF WORLD-WIDE EXPRES-

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SIONS OF PROTEST AND DISMAY. BEGAN ON THE FRONT PAGE.
ON THE INSIDE PAGES A HEADLINE SPOKE OF AN "ACT OF
PIRACY OF THE U.S.A." AN ARTICLE BY THE PAPER'S
WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT PRESENTED HIGHLY SELECTIVE
EXCERPTS OF CRITICAL AMERICAN EDITORIAL REACTIONS. THE
PAPER ALSO RAN A BRIEF FACTUAL REPORT OF RADIO TEHRAN'S
REJECTION OF THE U.S. STATEMENT THAT THE PLANE HAD BEEN
OUTSIDE THE CIVILIAN AIR CORRIDOR.

3. THE JULY 5 EDITORIAL, ENTITLED "WORLD GENDARME
U.S.A. AND THE DEATH OF 290 PEOPLE," MADE THE FOLLOWING
KEY POINTS:

-- THE U.S. HAD TO ADMIT AFTER DENIALS AND EVASIONS THA
IT HAD DOWNED THE PLANE;

-- UNDER THE PRETEXT OF SELF-DEFENSE 290 PEOPLE HAD TO
DIE BECAUSE THE U.S. NAVY WAS PROTECTING THE VITAL IN-
TEREST OF IMPERIALISM IN PETROLEUM PROFITS;

-- THE U.S. SHOULD FINALLY ABANDON ITS SELF-APPOINTED
ROLE AS WORLD POLICEMAN; ITS LEADERS SHOULD STOP TALKIN
ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS AND ACT ACCORDING TO HUMAN RIGHTS;

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-- THE U.S. SHOULD, AS BEFITS A WORLD POWER, MAKE EX-
CLUSIVELY PEACEFUL CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOLVING WORLD
CONFLICTS. MEEHAN

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E.O. 12356:DECL:OADR
TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PREL, PTER, ASEC, TC, IR, US
SUBJECT: DOWNING OF IRAN AIR 655: ANSWERS TO SPECIFIC
- QUESTIONS

REF: USCINCCENT 032215Z JUL 88

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. ABDULLAH AL-ANSARI, ACTING DIRECTOR DUBAI CIVIL AVIATION, ON JULY 7TH PROVIDED CONGEN DUBAI WRITTEN ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS AS POSED IN REFTEL. THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS:
 - A. IR655 WAS EXPECTED AT DUBAI AIRPORT AT 1115 LOCAL TIME. ALL AIRLINES FLIGHT SCHEDULES ARE APPROVED BY CIVIL AVIATION.
 - B. DUBAI A.T.C. DID NOT RECEIVE A FLIGHT PLAN OF IR65 (THIS IS NOT UNUSUAL), BUT ALL RELEVANT DETAILS AND DEPARTURE TIME RECEIVED FROM ABU DHABI A.C.C.

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C. AIRWAY A59 IS THE STANDARD ROUTING BETWEEN DUBAI AND BANDAR ABBAS; THE AIRCRAFT NORMALLY OPERATES AT CRUISING FL140 OR FL160.

D. AT NO TIME DID DUBAI A.T.C. ESTABLISH COMMUNICATION WITH IR655. NO PRIMARY RADAR OR S.S.R. RESPONSE WAS OBSERVED.

UR S.S.R. RESPONSE WAS 001000Z 010900

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88ABU DH003866

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E. DUABI A.T.C. TAPES DID NOT RECORD ANY TRANSMISSIONS
FROM IR655.

F. DUABI A.T.C. DOES NOT VIDEO RECORD RADAR. NEUMANN

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UNCLAS ABU DHABI 03878

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PREL, TC, IR, US

SUBJECT: DOWNING OF IRAN AIR 655: PUBLISHED NAMES OF
 - UAE VICTIMS

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF AN EMIRATE NEWS DISPATCH
 IN THE JULY 9 LOCAL PRESS:

"THE UAE EMBASSY IN TEHRAN WILL RECEIVE TODAY THE BODIES OF UAE CITIZENS DIED IN THE IRAN AIR PLANE SHOT DOWN BY THE UNITED STATES, ACCORDING TO THE UAE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES TO IRAN, TARIQ AHMED AL HAIDAN. AL HAIDAN SAID THE BODIES WILL BE FLOWN TO DUBAI LATER IN THE AFTERNOON. HE ADDED THAT 12 OF THE 17 BODIES WERE IDENTIFIED UNTIL THURSDAY WHILE THE FIVE WILL BE IDENTIFIED BY THEIR FAMILIES WHEN THEY ARRIVE IN TEHRAN TODAY. THE BODIES OF SOME IRANIANS WILL ALSO BE FLOWN TODAY TO DUBAI OF THE REQUEST OF THEIR FAMILIES RESIDING IN DUBAI."

2. WELL INFORMED JOURNALIST SOURCE CONSIDERS THIS
 INFORMATION TO BE ACCURATE.

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3. THE UAE VICTIMS OF THE ILL-FATED AIRLINER INCLUDE HASSAN ALI MOHAMMED, 30, HIS WIFE MAKIYA GHALOUM ALI, 27, THEIR FIVE CHILDREN FATIMA, 8, FAHAD, 7, FALAH, 4, FAISAL, 3, HISSA, 2 (THE YOUNGEST OF THE VICTIMS); MOHAMMAD ABDULLAH ABDUL RAHMAN, 65, HIS WIFE AYSHA, ABDUL RAHIM, 40, THEIR FOUR CHILDREN AHMED, 24, KHALID, 17, WAHIDA, 20, AND MUNA, 15; FATIMA MOHAMMED, 46, HER SON SAMIN MUHAMMED, 7, SALEH AHMED ABDULLAH, 25, AND

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88ABU DH003878

BADRIYA AL SHADDAH IBRAHIM, 25. NEUMANN

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UNCLAS STATE 220384 TOSEC 140210

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E.O. 12356: N/A
 TAGS: SOPN
 SUBJECT:HIGHLIGHTS OF FRIDAY, JULY 8, EVENING TV NEWS

A. CBS EVENING NEWS

1. U.S.-IRAN - PRESIDENT REAGAN WOULDN'T COMMIT PUBLICLY TODAY TO COMPENSATION FOR RELATIVES OF THOSE WHO DIED ON THE IRANIAN AIR BUS, BUT SOURCES TELL CBS NEWS AT A MEETING OF HIS TOP DEFENSE AND NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISORS, MR. REAGAN INDICATED THAT HE WILL PROBABLY ANNOUNCE EARLY NEXT WEEK THAT HE HAS DECIDED TO GO AHEAD. THAT IS IN SPITE OF CONTINUED OPPOSITION WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION ON LEGAL AND DIPLOMATIC GROUNDS AND BECAUSE OF THE WAY HE FEELS. AS DIVERS CONTINUED TO PULL THE BODIES OF VICTIMS FROM THE GULF, IRAN'S SECOND IN COMMAND, HASHEMI RAFSANJANI, COUNSELED AT FRIDAY PRAYERS IN TEHRAN AGAINST ANY IMMEDIATE REVENGE. THE BETTER TO WIN A POLITICAL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS VICTORY AGAINST THE U.S. WITH BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND THE TEHRAN GOVERNMENT TAKING A MORE OR LESS CONCILIATORY LINE AT THIS POINT, SOME IN THE
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ADMINISTRATION HAVE URGED THAT THE U.S. FOLLOW UP ON EARLIER HINTS THAT IRAN IS READY FOR BETTER RELATIONS. BUT THAT IDEA GETS A CHILLY RECEPTION FROM A WHITE HOUSE CONCERNED ABOUT AMERICAN HOSTAGES, ITS OWN GULF POLICY AND

THE ELECTION YEAR. (BILL PLANTE)

B. NBC NIGHTLY NEWS

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88STATE 220384

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1. SHULTZ URGING COMPENSATION. IN WASHINGTON, SOURCES TELL NBC CORRESPONDENT JOHN COCHRAN THAT SECRETARY OF STATE SHULTZ IS URGING PRESIDENT REAGAN TO OFFER COMPENSATION NOW TO THE FAMILIES OF THE 290 VICTIMS OF IRAN AIR FLIGHT 655. SHULTZ REPORTEDLY IS ARGUING THAT SUCH A PAYMENT WOULD BE A MORAL GESTURE, NOT AN ADMISSION OF GUILT BY THE U.S. HOWEVER, DEFENSE SECRETARY CARLUCCI REPORTEDLY WANTS TO DELAY ANY DECISION ON COMPENSATION UNTIL THE INVESTIGATION OF THE AIR DISASTER IS COMPLETED. (JOHN DANCY)

C. ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT

1. TEHRAN - THE GOVERNMENT SENT CONDOLENCES TODAY TO THE SIX COUNTRIES OTHER THAN IRAN WHOSE CITIZENS WERE KILLED WHEN THE IRANIAN PLANE WAS SHOT DOWN. A SENIOR WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL SAYS PRESIDENT REAGAN BELIEVES THAT PAYING COMPENSATION TO THE FAMILIES OF ALL THE VICTIMS, INCLUDING THE IRANIANS, WOULD BE THE RIGHT THING TO DO. AND IN IRAN TODAY THERE WAS NO SURPRISE WHATSOEVER TO HEAR PEOPLE SHOUTING DEATH TO AMERICA. BUT IT IS CHANTED SO OFTEN AND OFTEN ON CUE THAT IT IS HARDLY REGARDED BY OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON. (PETER JENNINGS)

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RAFSANJANI IS THE ONE PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RELATIVELY SUBDUED REACTION TO THE AIR BUS TRAGEDY. AGAIN TODAY AT THE WEEKLY OUTDOOR PRAYER SERVICE IN TEHRAN RAFSANJANI SAID THE AMERICAN ATTACK WAS PREMEDITATED. BUT RAFSANJANI ORDERED IRANIAN HARDLINERS NOT TO RETALIATE VIOLENTLY AGAINST THE UNITED STATES AND LOSE SYMPATHY WHICH IRAN HAS GAINED OVER THE INCIDENT. HE WANTS TO LET AMERICA DANGLE IN WHAT IS PERCEIVED HERE AS A NEAR UNIVERSAL CONDEMNATION OF THE ATTACK. AGAIN TODAY THE CROWDS WERE SMALLER AND GENERALLY SHOWED LESS REVOLUTIONARY PASSION THAN EXPECTED. IT IS CLEAR THE AYATOLLAH KHOMEINI IS BACKING HIS MILITARY COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF IN HIS EFFORT TO TONE DOWN THE RADICALISM AND IMPROVE IRAN'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. (JERRY KING)

2. ARMS DEAL - THE SAUDIS ARE BUYING MORE THAN 50 TORNADO FIGHTERS, TWO AIRBASES TO FLY THEM FROM P4US A SMALL FLEET OF MINE SWEEPERS. WITH THIS 12 BILLION DOLLAR PACKAGE AND ADDITIONAL SALES TO COME, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT COMES TO ESTIMATE SAUDI ARABIA WILL EVENTUALLY BUY 30 BILLION

DOLLARS IN WEAPONS FROM BRITAIN. THE U.S., OF COURSE, USED TO BE SAUDI ARABIA'S PRIMARY SUPPLIER, BUT OFFICIALS SAY THE ISRAELI LOBBY IN THE U.S. CONGRESS HAS MADE IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT FOR THE WHITE HOUSE TO COMPLETE

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SUCH BILLS. PHYLLIS OAKLEY. "CLEARLY WE WOULD HAVE
PREFERRED TO MAKE THESE SALES OURSELVES. WE THINK IT DOES
HURT AMERICAN INTEREST. WE THINK THAT OUR INTERESTS ARE
BETTER SERVED WHEN WE CAN SELL LEGITIMATE SELF-DEFENSE
ITEMS TO FRIENDLY ARAB COUNTRIES." MARLIN FITZWATER:
"THIS IS A 30 BILLION DOLLAR LOSS THAT AMERICAN COMPANIES
MIGHT WELL BE HIGHLY UPSET ABOUT." NOT ONLY DOES THE U.S.
LOSE BUSINESS AND POLITICAL LEVERAGE IN THE REGION, BUT
AMERICAN OFFICIALS ARGUE THAT ISRAEL LOSES AS WELL. WHEN
THE PLANES COME FROM AMERICA THE U.S. CAN INSIST ON
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RESTRICTIONS THAT PROTECT ISRAEL. THERE ARE NO SUCH
RESTRICTIONS WHEN THE PLANES COME FROM BRITIAN. (JOHN
MCWETHY)

D. NO FOREIGN POLICY INTERVIEWS ON MACNEIL-LEHRER AND NO
FOREIGN POLICY TOPIC ON ABC NIGHTLINE. WHITEHEAD

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OFFICIAL-INFORMAL -- FROM WILLIAMSON FOR AMB WALTERS

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: PREL, UNSC, IR
 SUBJECT: IRAN AIR INCIDENT: STATE OF PLAY

1. ~~SECRET~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. I WANTED TO BRING YOU UP TO DATE ON DEVELOPMENTS HERE INVOLVING THE IRAN AIR INCIDENT AND THE UN.
3. FOLLOWING UP ON WEDNESDAY'S PRG MEETING, AN NSPG MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, JULY 8, AT 11:00 AM TO CONTINUE DISCUSSION OF THE IRAN AIR INCIDENT. PAPERS HAVE BEEN PREPARED ADDRESSING THREE ASPECTS OF OUR DIPLOMATIC STRATEGY: HANDLING THE UPCOMING SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING AND REVIVING UNSCR 598; HANDLING THE UPCOMING ICAO MEETING; AND WHETHER TO OFFER EX GRATIA COMPENSATION.

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PAGE 02 STATE 218835

4. SECURITY COUNCIL: OUR OBJECTIVES FOR THE MEETING ARE TO REFOCUS THE COUNCIL'S ATTENTION ON THE URGENCY OF ENDING THE WAR THROUGH IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 598 AND LIMIT THE DAMAGE FROM THE AIRLINER INCIDENT. WHILE OPPOSED TO ANY RESOLUTION, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT AN ACCEPTABLE CONSENSUS PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT. BASED ON SOUNDINGS IN NEW YORK, HOWEVER, IT APPEARS UNLIKELY THAT WE AND IRAN'S SYMPATHIZERS ON THE

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COUNCIL COULD AGREE ON A TEXT. A MORE REALISTIC EXPECTATION IS TO GET AS MANY COUNCIL MEMBERS AS POSSIBLE TO MAKE STATEMENTS REAFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR RESOLUTION 598 AS THE AGREED FRAMEWORK FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT.

5. WE WILL BE MAKING DEMARCHES IN UNSC CAPITALS TO EXPLAIN OUR POSITION, STRESS OUR WILLINGNESS TO BE COOPERATIVE, AND INDICATE WHAT WE BELIEVE AN ACCEPTABLE OUTCOME OF THE MEETING WOULD BE. WE HAVE ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT PRESIDENTIAL LETTERS BE SENT TO THE FIVE ALLIES ON THE COUNCIL TO SOLIDIFY THEIR SUPPORT.

6. WE ARE ALSO LOOKING AHEAD AT HOW TO BREATHE LIFE INTO RESOLUTION 598, ONCE OVER THE HURDLE OF NEXT WEEK'S MEETING. WITH YOUR ASSISTANCE, WE WILL BE URGING THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO LAUNCH ANOTHER ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS WITH THE BELLIGERENTS. WE ARE ALSO CONSIDERING OTHER MEASURES TO RESUSCITATE THE 598 PROCESS.

7. ICAO: AT THE EXTRAORDINARY SESSION SCHEDULED FOR JULY 13, OUR OBJECTIVES WILL BE TO UNDERSCORE THE U.S. COMMITMENT TO CIVIL AVIATION SAFETY, PROPOSE THAT ICAO

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UNDERTAKE A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF ALL RELEVANT TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS TO SEE WHAT PROCEDURAL REFORMS COULD BE MADE TO IMPROVE AIR SAFETY, AND EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION FOR ICAO'S INSIGHTS AND OUR WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH AN INVESTIGATION.

8. EX GRATIA COMPENSATION: WE ARE ACTIVELY CONSIDERING A U.S. OFFER TO PAY EX GRATIA COMPENSATION TO THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS. SUCH A GESTURE WOULD, INTER ALIA, IMPROVE OUR POSITION IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND IN ICAO. HOWEVER, THE ISSUE REMAINS OPEN SINCE THERE IS SOME CONCERN THAT PAYMENTS TO IRANIANS MIGHT NOT SIT WELL WITH THE AMERICAN PUBLIC. WHITEHEAD

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E.O. 12356: ~~DECL. CADR~~
 TAGS: OVIP (SHULTZ, GEORGE P.)
 SUBJECT: INFORMATION MEMO: LEVITSKY-POWELL:
 COMPENSATION FOR VICTIMS OF THE IRAN AIR INCIDENT
 (S/S 8820975)

THE FOLLOWING LEVITSKY-POWELL HAS BEEN SENT TO THE
 WHITE HOUSE.

- MEMORANDUM FOR COLIN L. POWELL
 - THE WHITE HOUSE

SUBJECT: COMPENSATION FOR VICTIMS OF THE IRAN AIR
 INCIDENT

WE PROPOSE THAT THE PRESIDENT ISSUE A STATEMENT AS SOON
 AS POSSIBLE INDICATING THAT THE UNITED STATES IS
 PREPARED IN PRINCIPLE TO PROVIDE COMPENSATION, ON AN EX
 GRATIA BASIS, TO THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS OF THE
 IRAN AIR INCIDENT. THIS PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION WOULD
 IN NO RESPECT CONSTITUTE AN ADMISSION OF FAULT OR LEGAL

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LIABILITY, AND WOULD BE SUBJECT TO CONGRESSIONAL
 APPROVAL IF NECESSARY.

THIS PROPOSAL IS BASED ON THE FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS:

-- OUR OFFER WOULD NOT BE A CONCESSION OF WRONGDOING,
 OR LEGAL LIABILITY FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF THE
 AIRCRAFT. UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW, AN EX GRATIA
 PAYMENT MEANS A PAYMENT MADE AS A MATTER OF GRACE, AS

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OPPOSED TO ONE THE LAW REQUIRES.

-- TO COMPENSATE SURVIVORS IN THIS SITUATION WOULD NOT CONFLICT WITH OUR USUAL POLICY OF NOT PROVIDING COMPENSATION FOR THE TYPE OF INCIDENTAL DAMAGE AND INJURY TO CIVILIANS WHICH TYPICALLY OCCURS IN COMBAT OPERATIONS AGAINST MILITARY TARGETS (E.G., LIBYA RAID, SHELLING OF LEBANON). IN THE IRAN AIR SITUATION, THE AIRCRAFT TARGETED BY OUR FORCES TURNED OUT NOT TO BE A MILITARY OBJECTIVE.

-- TO COMPENSATE WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE AS REFLECTED IN A NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH STATES HAVE OFFERED COMPENSATION WHERE A VESSEL OR AIRCRAFT HAD BEEN MISTAKENLY ATTACKED BY ITS FORCES. THIS INCLUDES THE IRAQI ATTACK ON THE USS STARK, THE US ATTACK ON AN INDIAN FISHING BOAT IN THE GULF LAST FEBRUARY, THE IRANIAN ATTACK ON A UAE OIL PLATFORM IN APRIL, THE ISRAELI ATTACK ON A LIBYAN AIRLINER IN 1973, THE ISRAELI ATTACK ON THE USS LIBERTY IN 1967, THE CHINESE ATTACK ON A HONG KONG AIRLINER IN THE EARLY 1950'S, AND THE BULGARIAN ATTACK ON AN EL AL FLIGHT IN 1957.

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-- THE ONLY EXCEPTIONS TO COMPENSATION IN SUCH SITUATIONS DURING THE POST-WAR PERIOD OF WHICH WE ARE AWARE ARE THE SOVIET ATTACKS ON KOREAN CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT AND POSSIBLY A BULGARIAN REFUSAL TO COMPENSATE ISRAELI NATIONALS IN THE EL AL CASE.

-- A STATEMENT OFFERING TO COMPENSATE IN PRINCIPLE MAY PROPERLY BE MADE PROMPTLY, WITH THE DETAILS CONCERNING TIMING, AMOUNTS, AND OTHER TERMS TO BE WORKED OUT IN AN ORDERLY MANNER BY AN INTERAGENCY GROUP WORKING UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT LEGAL ADVISER. (IRAQ, FOR EXAMPLE, ISSUED A STATEMENT AGREEING IN PRINCIPLE TO PAY COMPENSATION IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE USS STARK INCIDENT, AND WE ARE NOW WORKING OUT THE DETAILS OF COMPENSATION.)

-- THE AMOUNTS PAID IN PRIOR SITUATIONS INDICATE THAT A RESPECTABLE RANGE WOULD BE AN AVERAGE OF BETWEEN \$100,000 - 200,000 PER PERSON (OR \$29-58 MILLION ALTOGETHER). DOD IS CURRENTLY EXAMINING ITS STATUTORY CLAIMS AUTHORITIES; IF NECESSARY, WE WOULD SEEK CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL, WHICH WE BELIEVE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING.

WE BELIEVE THAT A PROMPT, FORTHCOMING STATEMENT WOULD

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-- REMOVE A SOURCE OF CONTROVERSY AND PRESSURE ON THE ADMINISTRATION BY CONGRESS, AND ON THE UNITED STATES BY OTHER NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL BODIES.

-- SUPPORT THE PERCEPTION THAT THE UNITED STATES ACTED IN GOOD FAITH THROUGHOUT THE INCIDENT, AND IN PARTICULAR HAD NO INTENTION OF ENDANGERING CIVILIANS OR CIVIL AIR TRAFFIC.

-- STRENGTHEN THE U.S. IMAGE AS A RESPONSIBLE ACTOR IN

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THE GULF SITUATION, AND UNDERCUT IRANIAN ATTEMPTS TO PORTRAY US AS RECKLESS AND CALLOUS.

-- MAKE IT EASIER TO RESIST PRESSURES IN CONGRESS OR INTERNATIONAL BODIES (ESPECIALLY ICAO) TO TAKE STEPS CONTRARY TO OUR INTEREST, SUCH AS INVESTIGATIONS THAT WOULD BE EXCESSIVE IN SCOPE.

-- IMPROVE OUR POSITION IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL, AND HELP US HEAD OFF IRAN'S ATTEMPT TO DEFLECT ATTENTION AWAY FROM ITS RECALCITRANCE ON UNSC RES. 598 WHILE TURNING THE SPOTLIGHT ON THE AIRLINE INCIDENT.

-- UNDERCUT ANY ATTEMPT TO BRING LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES FOR COMPENSATION, EITHER IN NATIONAL COURTS OR INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNALS.

A PROPOSED ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT IS AT TAB 1; A PROPOSED STATEMENT TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL IS AT TAB 2. WE BELIEVE THOS ANNOUNCEMENT SHOULD BE MADE THIS WEEK, RATHER THAN WAITING FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE CURRENT DOD INVESTIGATION. THE RESULTS OF THAT INVESTIGATION ARE UNLIKELY TO HAVE ANY BEARING ON OUR DECISION TO COMPENSATE THE INNOCENT VICTIMS OF THIS INCIDENT; AND AN EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT WILL SPARE US CONSIDERABLE CONTROVERSY AND PRESSURE IN THE COMING WEEKS, WHEN THE MATTER WILL BE TAKEN UP BY THE UN, ICAO AND POSSIBLY THE CONGRESS. (A SEPARATE MEMO WILL FOLLOW SHORTLY ON OUR PROPOSED ACTION PLAN FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THIS MATTER IN ICAO.)

MELVYN LEVITSKY
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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ATTACHMENTS:

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88STATE 218639

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TAB 1. PRESIDENTIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

TAB 2. STATEMENT TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

TAB 1

- PRESIDENTIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

ON SUNDAY, WHEN I RECEIVED THE NEWS OF THE ACCIDENTAL SHOOTING DOWN OF AN IRANIAN AIRLINER BY THE USS VINCENNES, I STATED THAT THE UNITED STATES DEEPLY REGRETTED THE TRAGIC LOSS OF LIFE THAT OCCURRED. WHATEVER THE REASONS FOR THIS TRAGEDY, AND WHATEVER PART THE ACTIONS OF THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE PLAYED IN CAUSING IT, IN HUMAN TERMS WE CAN ONLY REGRET THE SUFFERING AND LOSS THAT THE FAMILIES OF THE INNOCENT VICTIMS OF THIS INCIDENT HAVE ENDURED. I HAVE ALREADY EXPRESSED MY REGRETS TO THE HEADS OF STATE OF INDIA, ITALY, KUWAIT, PAKISTAN, THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, AND YUGOSLAVIA, WHOSE NATIONALS WERE AMONG THE PASSENGERS ON BOARD THAT AIRCRAFT.

ACCORDINGLY, I HAVE DECIDED THAT THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED IN PRINCIPLE TO PROVIDE COMPENSATION, ON AN EX GRATIA BASIS, TO THE FAMILIES OF THESE VICTIMS. THE DETAILS CONCERNING AMOUNTS, TIMING AND OTHER MATTERS WILL BE WORKED OUT PROMPTLY THROUGH THE USUAL PROCEDURES. PAYMENT WILL, OF COURSE, BE SUBJECT TO THE NORMAL U.S. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS INCLUDING, IF NECESSARY, APPROPRIATE ACTION BY CONGRESS.

THIS OFFER OF EX GRATIA COMPENSATION IS CONSISTENT WITH THE PRACTICE OF STATES TO OFFER COMPENSATION IN SUCH CASES ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS, RATHER THAN ON THE BASIS OF LEGAL LIABILITY.

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THIS LOSS OF LIFE OCCURRED AS A RESULT OF THE PROPER ATTEMPT BY A U.S. NAVAL VESSEL, WHICH WAS THEN IN THE MIDST OF AN ENGAGEMENT WITH ATTACKING IRANIAN FORCES, TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST WHAT IT BELIEVED TO BE AN ATTACK BY A HOSTILE MILITARY AIRCRAFT. ONLY THE END OF THE GULF WAR, AN OBJECTIVE WHICH WE STRONGLY DESIRE, CAN END THE HUMAN SUFFERING IN THIS REGION. THIS IS OUR GOAL AND WE ENCOURAGE IRAN AND IRAQ TO WORK WITH THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO IMPLEMENT ITS CALL FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT OF THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR PURSUANT TO UNSC RESOLUTION 598. IN THE MEANTIME, U.S. FORCES WILL CONTINUE THEIR PEACEFUL MISSION IN THE GULF AREA, AND THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO DEFEND THOSE FORCES.

NONETHELESS, THE UNITED STATES ACCEPTS ITS MORAL

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RESPONSIBILITY TO TAKE HUMANITARIAN ACTION TO ALLEVIATE
THE SUFFERING OF THE INNOCENT VICTIMS OF THIS TRAGEDY.

DRAFTED:L:MJMATHESON
7/7/88 647-8460

CLEARANCES:

L:ADSOFAER
NEA:EPDJEREJIAN, ACTING
IO:RSWILLIAMSON

TAB 2

- COMPENSATION FOR VICTIMS OF IRAN AIR INCIDENTS:
- MESSAGE TO SECURITY COUNCIL

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THE TRAGIC ACCIDENTAL DOWNING OF IRAN AIR FLIGHT 655
HAS FOCUSED ATTENTION ON THE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN
THE PERSIAN GULF AND ITS ROLE THERE. IN THIS REGARD,
IT IS IMPORTANT TO RECALL THAT U.S. POLICY IN THE
PERSIAN GULF REFLECTS OUR LONGSTANDING STRATEGIC,
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INTERESTS IN THE REGION. IN
SUPPORT OF THESE INTERESTS WE HAVE MAINTAINED A
CONTINUOUS MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE GULF FOR FOUR
DECADES.

THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR, NOW IN ITS EIGHTH YEAR, HAS GREATLY
INCREASED THE THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF ALL STATES IN
THE AREA. WE HAVE PURSUED A TWO-TRACK POLICY IN
CONFRONTING THIS THREAT. FIRST, WE ACTIVELY HAVE
SOUGHT A DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION IN THE UNITED NATIONS.
SECOND, WE HAVE TAKEN CERTAIN MILITARY MEASURES TO
PROTECT OUR INTERESTS WHILE THE WAR CONTINUES.

LAST YEAR, U.S. NAVAL FORCES IN THE GULF WERE AUGMENTED
TO PROTECT AMERICAN FLAG VESSELS, INCLUDING A NUMBER OF
TANKERS REFLAGGED AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOVERNMENT OF
KUWAIT. WHILE THIS POLICY HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN
DETERRING IRANIAN ATTACKS ON AMERICAN FLAG VESSELS,
IRAN HAS CONTINUED TO LAUNCH UNPROVOKED ATTACKS AGAINST
OTHER NEUTRAL SHIPPING. FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS, WE
HAVE OFFERED TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THOSE NEUTRAL,
NON-CONTRABAND CARRYING VESSELS THAT COME UNDER ATTACK
AND REQUEST OUR AID.

IN CARRYING OUT THIS MISSION IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS OF
THE PERSIAN GULF, ON JULY 3 THE USS VINCENNES BECAME
ENGAGED WITH IRANIAN FORCES WHILE DEFENDING ITSELF
AGAINST UNPROVOKED IRANIAN ATTACKS. IN THE COURSE OF

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88STATE 218639

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THIS ACTION, THE VINCENNES FIRED -- AFTER SENDING
REPEATED WARNINGS TO WHICH THE AIRCRAFT DID NOT RESPOND
-- IN SELF DEFENSE AT WHAT IT BELIEVED TO BE A HOSTILE
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IRANIAN MILITARY AIRCRAFT. REGRETTABLY, THE IRANIAN
AIRLINER WAS MISTAKENLY SHOT DOWN.

WE HAVE EXPRESSED OUR DEEP REGRET AT WHAT PRESIDENT
REAGAN HAS SAID IS A "TERRIBLE HUMAN TRAGEDY", AND ARE
CONDUCTING A FULL INVESTIGATION. ADDITIONALLY, THE

PRESIDENT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT, AS A HUMANITARIAN
GESTURE, THE U.S. IS PREPARED IN PRINCIPLE TO PROVIDE
COMPENSATION, ON AN EX GRATIA BASIS, TO THE FAMILIES OF
ALL THE VICTIMS, REGARDLESS OF NATIONALITY. THIS OFFER
IS CONSISTENT WITH THE PRACTICE OF STATES TO OFFER
COMPENSATION IN SUCH CASES ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS, RATHER
THAN ON THE BASIS OF LEGAL LIABILITY. AS STATED IN
MYLETTER TO THE COUNCIL OF JULY 6, U.S. ACTIONS WERE
TAKEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR INHERENT RIGHT OF SELF
DEFENSE, AS RECOGNIZED IN ARTICLE 51 OF THE UN
CHARTER. THIS OFFER OF COMPENSATION IS AN
ACKNOWLEDGMENT THAT THE U.S. ACCEPTS ITS MORAL
RESPONSIBILITY TO TAKE HUMANITARIAN ACTION TO ALLEVIATE
THE SUFFERING OF THE INNOCENT VICTIMS OF THIS TRAGEDY.

AS WE HAVE SAID, THIS UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT UNDERSCORES
THE DANGERS POSED BY CONTINUATION OF THE GULF WAR AND
THE URGENCY OF RENEWED EFFORTS TO END THE HUMAN
SUFFERING IN THE REGION. WE ENCOURAGE IRAN AND IRAQ TO
WORK WITH THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO IMPLEMENT A
COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT OF THE WAR PURSUANT TO UNSC
RESOLUTION 598. LET US ALL RECOMMIT OURSELVES TO THIS
URGENT TASK.

DRAFTED: IO/UNP:KLOKEN

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L/UNA:BRASHKOW

NEA/NGA:LPOPE

PM/ISP:TOTIS

USUN:RIMMERMAN WHITEHEAD

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INFO SECDEF WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 1168
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 LUXEMBOURG 00939

E.O. 12356: ~~DECL: OADR~~

TAGS: MOPS, PREL, .IR, LU

SUBJECT: LUXEMBOURG REACTION TO IRAN AIR DOWNING

1. (LOR) SUMMARY: LUXEMBOURG FOREIGN MINISTER POOS HAS ISSUED A MODERATE OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON THE IRAN AIR SHOOTING, WHICH CONTAINS NO NAME CALLING. PREDOMINANT REACTIONS FROM OFFICIAL AND NON-OFFICIAL LUXEMBOURGERS, AS WELL AS FROM THE RESIDENT DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY, HAS BEEN A RESTRAINED MIXTURE OF REGRET AND PREPAREDNESS TO BELIEVE THE U.S. VERSION OF EVENTS. PRESS COVERAGE HAS BEEN EXTENSIVE, ALTHOUGH THE FEW EDITORIALS HAVE NOT BEEN ENTIRELY HELPFUL. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) FOREIGN MINISTER'S OFFICIAL STATEMENT. FOREIGN MINISTER JACQUES POOS ISSUED AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE WEEK WHICH DID NOT NAME THE UNITED STATES AT ALL. IN THREE SHORT PARAGRAPHS IT:

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-- EXPRESSED PROFOUND REGRET AT THE TRAGIC FATE OF THOSE "ABOARD THE IRANIAN AIRBUS ACCIDENTALLY SHOT DOWN OVER THE STRAITS OF HORMUZ;"

-- ASCRIBED THE CONFUSION REGARDING THE ORIGINS OF THE MISHAP TO THE CONTINUING TENSION IN THE REGION AND THE DANGERS OF SOPHISTICATED ARMS AND

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-- APPEALED FOR THE SOLUTION OF THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR ON THE BASIS OF UNSC RESOLUTION 598, WHILE REITERATING COMMITMENT TO FREE NAVIGATION IN THE GULF.

3. (LOU) LOCAL COMMENTARY. THE JULY 4 "VIN D'HONNEUR" FOR SENIOR LOCAL AND DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS, THE DAY AFTER THE INCIDENT ITSELF, BROUGHT A STRING OF ROUGHLY PARALLEL EXPRESSIONS OF CONDOLENCE AND OF CONCERN OVER THE POLITICAL WINDFALL TO IRAN AND TO RADICAL ELEMENTS AROUND THE WORLD. ATTENDANCE BY THE HEADS OF BOTH SIDES OF THE COALITION GOVERNMENT (CHRISTIAN SOCIAL PRIME MINISTER AND SOCIALIST VICE PM) AS WELL AS OTHER SENIOR POLITICIANS FROM MAIN-STREAM PARTIES, THE MARSHALL OF THE COURT, THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH (IN THE 97 PERCENT CATHOLIC COUNTRY) WOULD HAVE BEEN NORMAL IN ANY CASE, BUT WAS COMMENTED ON BY A NUMBER OF THOSE INDIVIDUALS AS SPECIFICALLY INTENDED TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR THE U.S. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE MOMENT. COMMENTS FROM THE LOCAL COMMUNITY SINCE THAT TIME HAVE CONVEYED SIMILAR THOUGHTS

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AND GENERAL SUPPORT FOR THE U.S.

4. (LOU) MEDIA COVERAGE. THE LOCAL PRESS HAS PROVIDED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF THE JULY 4 DOWNING OF THE IRAN AIR AIRBUS BY THE USS VINCENNES IN THE PERSIAN GULF. THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF COVERAGE HAS BEEN NON-EDITORIAL REPORTING SOURCED TO WIRE SERVICES, ETC., AND IS NOT OF LOCAL ORIGIN. EDITORIAL COMMENT IN LEADING LOCAL NEWSPAPERS HAS BEEN LIMITED, BUT BY NO MEANS UNIVERALLY HELPFUL:

-- THE SAME DAY AS THE INCIDENT, THE FRENCH-LANGUAGE "REPUBLICAIN LORRAIN," CITING GRADUAL ESCALATION OF U.S. ACTIVITY IN THE GULF, COMMENTED THAT EVERYTHING DEVELOPED "AS THOUGH THE U.S. WANTED TO PUSH IRAN INTO COMMITTING AN ERROR," BUT GOT CAUGHT IN ITS OWN TRAP.

-- THE NEXT DAY, THE SAME PAPER ARGUED THAT THE INCIDENT HAS WEAKENED CONSIDERABLY THE HAND OF THE MODERATES WITHIN IRAN.

-- MEANWHILE, THE DOMINANT GERMAN-LANGUAGE "LUX-EMBOURGER WORT," OWNED AND OPERATED BY THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, MADE CLEAR THE LACK OF

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COMPARABILITY OF THIS CASE WITH THAT OF THE KAL
FLIGHT OVER THE SOVIET UNION. IT ALSO NOTED THE
VARIOUS FORMS OF BLAME WHICH MUST BE ASCRIBED
TO THE IRANIAN SIDE. NEVERTHELESS, IT CONCLUDED
THAT NO MORAL CAN JUSTIFY THE U.S.' ERROR,
ESPECIALLY COMMITTED BY THE "STRONGEST AND MOST
HIGH-TECH EQUIPPED ARMED FORCE IN THE WORLD."

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6951
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 1169
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 LUXEMBOURG 00939

E.O. 12356: ~~DECL: OADR~~
TAGS: MOPS, PREL, .IR, LU
SUBJECT: LUXEMBOURG REACTION TO IRAN AIR DOWNING

-
5. (c) COMMENT:
-

A) WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF (SOCIALIST) FOREIGN MINISTER POOS (PARA 2) WAS ISSUED PERSONALLY BY HIM AND IN HIS NAME AS FOREIGN MINISTER BECAUSE HE FEARED MORE MILITANT MEMBERS OF THE SOCIALIST SIDE OF THE COALITION WOULD NOT APPROVE ISSUING THE MODERATE, NON-NAME-CALLING TEXT IN THE NAME OF THE GOL OVERALL.

B) AT THE RECEPTION (PARA 3 ABOVE), THE SOVIET CHARGE AND COLLEAGUE, SAYING THIS WAS AN OFFICIAL MESSAGE, STRESSED THAT, "IF THE U.S. AND USSR WOULD ONLY ACT IN FULL CONCERT IN THE GULF," THERE WOULD BE NO WAY EVEN THE

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OBSTINATE IRANIANS COULD STAND UP TO THE PRESSURE. THEY DID NOT SAY WHY THEY THOUGHT THAT WOULD BE THE CASE. NOR DID THEY RESPOND SUBSTANTIVELY TO COUNTER URGING TO BE MORE COOPERATIVE IN THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL.
GERARD

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THE WHITE HOUSE
AMCONSUL HALIFAX
AMCONSUL QUEBEC
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL TORONTO
AMCONSUL CALGARY
AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 OTTAWA 05586

USIA

AGENCY FOR P/M (INFO P/R); P/GF; P/FW; P/FN; VOA/BXN;
P/PFE; EU
STATE FOR EUR/CAN; EUR/PA
WHITE HOUSE PASS NSC/WEUROPEE.O. 12356 N/A
TAGS: ECPS, PREL, CA, IR, UR, XKSUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION --SHOOTING DOWN OF IRANIAN
JETLINER, WATER DIVERSION, WORLD BANK REPORT, CENTRAL
AMERICA, SOVIET REFORMS1. THERE WERE TWO ITEMS IN CANADIAN PAPERS JULY 8 ON
THE IRAN AIRBUS INCIDENT, AND ONE EACH ON THE AMERICAN
PLAN TO DIVERT WATER FROM LAKE MICHIGAN, THE WORLD BANK
REPORT, AND CENTRAL AMERICA. AN ITEM ON THE SOVIET
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COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS ALSO APPEARED ON JULY 6.
EXCERPTS FOLLOW.2. THE TORONTO STAR RAN TWO COLUMNS ON THE IRAN
AFFAIR. THE FIRST, BY RICHARD GWYN, WAS ENTITLED, "THE
ENEMY STARTS TO LOOK VERY HUMAN". "UNTIL NOW, MOST
AMERICANS HAVE GREETED THE KILLING OF 290 CIVILIANS
ABOARD THE IRANIAN AIRBUS WITH INDIFFERENCE RATHER THAN
WITH CONTRITION...THIS ATTITUDE IS BEGINNING TO

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PARLAMENT OF STATE 9203931

MR Cases Only: 1288 Date: 9/18/96

EO Citations

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CHANGE...THE IMMEDIATE REASON FOR THIS IS THAT THE PENTAGON'S COVER STORY HAS STARTED TO CRUMBLE....

3. "THE REAL REASON WHY THE WORM OF DOUBT HAS BEGUN TO GNAW AT THE AMERICAN PSYCHE IS THAT THE IRANIANS ARE NOT BEHAVING IN THE WAY IRANIANS ARE SUPPOSED TO BEHAVE. THEY ARE MOURNING THEIR DEAD, INSTEAD OF SCREAMING FOR DEATHS IN REVENGE....

4. "MANY OF THESE PEOPLES OR NATIONS HAVE LEARNED THE TECHNIQUE OF USING WEAKNESS AS A STRENGTH. WHEN STRUCK DOWN, THEY ARE DESTABILIZING THEIR OPPONENTS BY TURNING THE OTHER CHEEK. THERE HAS BEEN A STRIKING CONTRAST, FOR EXAMPLE, BETWEEN REAGAN'S RELUCTANT AND QUALIFIED APOLOGY AND IRANIAN MILITARY COMMANDER ALI AKBAR HASHEMI RAFSANJANI'S MEASURED SPEECH IN MID-WEEK CAUTIONING IRANIANS TO REACT PRUDENTLY AND DECLARING THAT WHILE THE AIRBUS MAY HAVE BEEN DOWNED BY MISTAKE, THE U.S. STILL "DESERVES BLAME."

5. "AFGHANISTAN PROVIDES ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE SAME PHENOMENON. THERE, AS THE SOVIETS WITHDRAW, THE ONUS OF BLAME HAS BEGUN TO SHIFT. SUDDENLY, THE U.S.-BACKED MUJAHIDEEN REBELS, MOST OF THEM ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISTS, ARE LOOKING TATTY AND UNHEROIC, WHILE PRESIDENT
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NAJIBULLAH IS BEGINNING TO LOOK LIKE A RELATIVE PROGRESSIVE...THE CATALYST OF CHANGE, I BELIEVE, IS THAT MOST OF THE TENSION HAS GONE OUT OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS....

6. "THIS NEW UNDERSTANDING POSES CANADIANS WITH SOME URGENT POLITICAL DECISIONS...HAVE WE PUT OURSELVES TOO CLOSE TO THE U.S., THE AUTHOR OF THE DOCTRINE OF THE INTRINSIC EVIL OF OTHERS?" VIEWING THE WORLD IN THIS NEW WAY DOESN'T REMAKE AYATOLLAH RUHOLLAH KHOMEINI'S REGIME INTO AN ATTRACTIVE ONE OR NORMAL ONE...IT DOES MAKE THEM INTO PEOPLE AGAIN...."

7. BRUCE MCLEOD, ANOTHER STAR COLUMNIST, WROTE "TRAGEDY, YES, BUT AIRBUS WAS NOT LOST BY 'ACCIDENT'." "...TO PARENTS OF DYING CHILDREN, IT'S ALL TERRORISM. YET NO ONE COULD SAY THERE WAS DELIBERATE INTENT TO KILL CIVILIANS LAST SUNDAY. U.S. CAPTAIN WILL ROGERS, FACING WHAT HE HAD DONE, SAID, "THIS IS A BURDEN I WILL CARRY THE REST OF MY LIFE" -- HARDLY THE WORDS OF A TERRORIST. MORE HELPFUL, PERHAPS, IS THE PHRASE (BY U.S. HOUSE SPEAKER WRIGHT) "MISTAKES WERE MADE."...."

8. AN EDITORIAL IN THE GLOBE AND MAIL WAS ENTITLED, "THOSE WHO WOULD UNLOCK LAKE MICHIGAN...SO THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS IS QUITE CAPABLE OF OPENING

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A LOCK IN THE CHICAGO SANITARY AND SHIP CANAL TO
INCREASE THE FLOW FROM LAKE MICHIGAN....IT WOULD
CERTAINLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE CARELESS MENTALITY THAT SEES
SIMPLE CONSEQUENCES ARISING FROM SIMPLE INTERVENTIONS
INTO COMPLEX NATURAL SYSTEMS. AND IN THIS CASE, THE

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THE WHITE HOUSE
AMCONSUL HALIFAX
AMCONSUL QUEBEC
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL TORONTO
AMCONSUL CALGARY
AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 OTTAWA 05586

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P/PFE; EU
STATE FOR EUR/CAN; EUR/PA
WHITE HOUSE PASS NSC/WEUROPE

E.O. 12356 N/A
TAGS: ECPS, PREL, CA, IR, UR, XK

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION --SHOOTING DOWN OF IRANIAN

PRECEDENT COULD SOON CREEP UP INTO CANADA'S GREAT LAKE
WATERS, OF WHICH LAKE MICHIGAN IS NOT, UNFORTUNATELY, A
LEGAL PART.

9. "THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION, WHICH
SUPERVISES BOUNDARY WATERS BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED
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STATES, IS STUDYING THE EFFECTS OF WATER DIVERSION FROM
THE GREAT LAKES. NOTHING SHOULD BE DONE AT LAKE
MICHIGAN IN ISOLATION FROM CONNECTING WATERS OR CURRENT
STUDIES. AND NOTHING SHOULD BE DONE WITHOUT FULL
CONSULTATION WITH CANADA, COHABITANT ON THE CONTINENT
AND NO WILLING VICTIM OF APPARENTLY EASY SOLUTIONS."

10. THE GLOBE ALSO RAN AN EDITORIAL: "THE MECHANICS OF
TRADE", ON THE WORLD BANK'S ANNUAL REPORT. "....SQ...."

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DESPITE A LAUDABLE CONCERN FOR THIRD WORLD DEBT, THE BANK IS MOST WORRIED ABOUT FIRST WORLD DEBT: THE U.S. FEDERAL BUDGET DEFICIT, CURRENTLY AROUND \$150-BILLION. WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY MORE INTERDEPENDENT THAN SOME TRADE PROTECTIONISTS WOULD LIKE TO ADMIT, THE UNBALANCED AMERICAN BUDGET THREATENS US ALL....ACCORDING TO THE BANK, A SMALLER DEFICIT WOULD HOLD OFF INFLATION, STABILIZE CURRENCY MARKETS AND AVOID A LOOMING RECESSION.

11. "OFFICIALS IN THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION HAVE AGREED THAT DEFICIT REDUCTION IS CRUCIAL, BUT THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF HAS PROVED UNWILLING TO CONSIDER THE ONLY PRACTICAL ROUTE TO A SMALLER DEBT -- A RISE IN FEDERAL TAXES. AND, WHILE JAPAN'S ECONOMY IS VITAL ENOUGH TO TAKE ON A GREATER ROLE IN STABILIZING THE WORLD ECONOMY, IT IS NOT CLEAR THAT WEST GERMANY IS UP TO THE TASK....

12. "IN GENERAL, MORE LIBERAL AND CREATIVE TRADE, COUPLED WITH STRONG CONSUMPTION IN THE LEADING INDUSTRIAL NATIONS, WILL BE NEEDED TO REVITALIZE THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY AND MAKE THE MOST OF MODEST GAINS EXPECTED IN THE NEXT FIVE OR SIX YEARS...."

13. THE OTTAWA CITIZEN'S EDITORIAL WAS CALLED, "A
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CANADIAN ROLE IN CENTRAL AMERICA?" IT DEALT WITH A CANADIAN PARLIAMENTARY REPORT ON CENTRAL AMERICA. "CENTRAL AMERICA FOR 100 YEARS HAS BEEN A PLACE PECULIARLY DOMINATED BY THE UNITED STATES -- IMMERSSED IN U.S. POLITICAL AND CULTURAL INFLUENCE, AWASH IN ANTI-U.S. BITTERNESS, RESISTANT TO THE STRATEGIES OF SUCESSIVE U.S. PRESIDENTS.... ADMINISTRATIONS HAVE DIFFERED AS TO THE RIGHT U.S. POLICIES FOR THE REGION. ALL HAVE INSISTED THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS A VITAL INTEREST IN THE REGION'S SECURITY..

14. "WHERE DO CANADA'S INTERESTS LIE? IN ENCOURAGING THE POLITICAL PEACE AND ECONOMIC GROWTH THAT MIGHT MINIMIZE SUPERPOWER CONFLICT IN THE AMERICAS, AND IN DISCOURAGING THE UNITED STATES FROM INTERFERING IN THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF ITS NEIGHBORS -- SOUTHERN AND NORTHERN....

15. "AFTER A QUICK TRIP TO THE AREA LAST WEEK, SECRETARY OF STATE GEORGE SHULTZ SOUNDED LIKE A MAN READY FOR SOME ALTERNATIVES TO HIS OWN FAILED APPROACHES. SPECIFICALLY, SHULTZ IMPLIED THAT THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION MIGHT HAVE ERRED BY UNDER-USING DIPLOMACY...."

16. IN THE AFTERNOON EDITION OF THE VANCOUVER SUN ON

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88OTTAWA005586

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JULY 6, AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "GORBACHEV ON COURSE" APPEARED. "NO MORE PROFOUND DEVELOPMENT - EXCEPT NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT - CAN AFFECT EAST-WEST RELATIONS AS WELL AS THE STATE OF DOMESTIC AFFAIRS IN THE SOVIET UNION.

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APPROVED BY: IO:RSWILLIAMSON

S/S:MKLOSSON

S/S-O:WMENOLD

IO:SVOGELGESANG

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ STATE 219953 TOSEC 140194E.O. 12356: ~~DECL: OADR~~

TAGS: OVIP (SHULTZ, GEORGE P.)

SUBJECT: INFORMATION MEMO: LEVITSKY-POWELL:

(IRAN AIR INCIDENT - U.S. STRATEGY FOR ICAO)

(S/S 8821032)

THE FOLLOWING LEVITSKY-POWELL HAS BEEN SENT TO THE WHITE
HOUSE.

- MEMORANDUM FOR COLIN L. POWELL
- THE WHITE HOUSE

SUBJECT: IRAN AIR INCIDENT -- U.S. STRATEGY FOR ICAO

AT IRAN'S REQUEST, THE ICAO COUNCIL WILL MEET IN
EXTRAORDINARY SESSION ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, TO DISCUSS
"THE DESTRUCTION OF IRAN AIR FLIGHT 655." THIS PAPER
DISCUSSES U.S. OBJECTIVES AT THIS SESSION AND RECOMMENDED
TACTICS AND STRATEGY.

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U.S. OBJECTIVES

-- TO EXPRESS PROFOUND REGRET OVER THE INCIDENT;

-- TO STATE OUR LEGITIMATE REASONS FOR BEING IN THE GULF
AND DESCRIBE THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THE INCIDENT
OCCURRED;

-- TO REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO THE SAFETY OF

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE 9203931 IS/FPC/CDR 788 Date. 9/18/96

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INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION AND TO PROMOTE ANY FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS THAT MAY BE NEEDED TOWARD THIS END IN RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF THE CHICAGO CONVENTION ANNEXES AND OTHER DOCUMENTS AND IN INTERNATIONAL OPERATING PRACTICES, CONSISTENT WITH OUR NATIONAL SECURITY REQUIREMENTS;

-- TO CONFIRM OUR INTENTION TO PROVIDE EX GRATIA PAYMENTS TO THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS AND COOPERATE IN ALL APPROPRIATE RESPECTS WITH AN ICAO INVESTIGATION;

-- TO DEFLECT ANY EFFORTS BY IRAN TO "CONDEMN" US OR OUR POLICIES AND TO ENSURE THAT ANY RESOLUTION OR INVESTIGATION INCLUDES IRAN'S ROLE IN THIS INCIDENT; AND

-- TO DEFLECT EXCESSIVELY INTRUSIVE INQUIRIES INTO MILITARY PROCEDURES AND POLICIES.

U.S. TACTICS AND STRATEGY

MOST OF THE COUNCIL'S 33 MEMBERS (TAB 1) HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR INTENTION TO ATTEND THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING ON JULY 13. THE MEETING WILL PROBABLY LAST TWO DAYS AND RESULT IN AN ICAO INVESTIGATION.

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WE SHOULD SEEK TO ASSURE THAT ANY ICAO INVESTIGATION IS SEEN AS A FACT-FINDING EXERCISE WITH THE GOAL OF IMPROVING THE SAFETY OF INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION. WE SHOULD PLAY A LEADING ROLE IN ANY RESULTING TECHNICAL REVIEWS AND CONSIDERATION OF IMPROVEMENTS AS NOTED IN THE OBJECTIVES.

WE WILL HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE THE FACTS AS EXTENSIVELY AS POSSIBLE. ANY INVESTIGATION MUST BE STRUCTURED SO THAT ICAO WILL BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT ITS MANDATE IN A MANNER THAT SAFEGUARDS OUR OWN NATIONAL SECURITY REQUIREMENTS. ASSAD KOTAITE OF LEBANON, THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT, WOULD PREFER TO LAUNCH THE INVESTIGATION THROUGH HIS OWN CONSENSUS STATEMENT RATHER THAN THROUGH A RESOLUTION WHICH COULD HAVE THE RISK OF INCLUDING ANTI-U.S. LANGUAGE. WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO EXPLORE AND ENCOURAGE THIS APPROACH WHILE HOLDING IN RESERVE A U.S. DRAFT RESOLUTION (TAB 2).

SINCE THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL WILL BE ADDRESSING THE POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE INCIDENT, WE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO KEEP THE COUNCIL FOCUSED ON THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS. NEVERTHELESS, IRAN CAN BE EXPECTED TO PRESS FOR CONDEMNATION OF THE UNITED STATES. WE BELIEVE THE TENOR AND OUTCOME OF THE MEETING WILL DEPEND, IN LARGE MEASURE, UPON OUR ABILITY TO DEMONSTRATE OUR

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SERIOUS INTENTION TO COOPERATE WITH ICAO IN ITS INVESTIGATION, TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN ANY TECHNICAL REVIEWS AND TO PROVIDE COMPENSATION TO THE VICTIMS' FAMILIES.

IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING WE SHOULD:

-- CONSULT WITH PRESIDENT KOTAITE AND COUNCIL MEMBERS TO DETERMINE, INTER ALIA, WHETHER THE INVESTIGATION CAN BE INITIATED BY PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT;

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-- IF NECESSARY, CIRCULATE TO SELECTED MEMBERS THE RESOLUTION AT TAB 2 FOR U.S. OR OTHER APPROPRIATE SPONSORSHIP;

-- INSTRUCT EMBASSIES IN CAPITALS OF COUNCIL MEMBER COUNTRIES TO EXPLAIN OUR POSITION AND, AS APPROPRIATE, SEEK SUPPORT.

AT THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL, WE SHOULD:

-- MAKE A STRONG STATEMENT REFLECTING U.S. OBJECTIVES NOTED ABOVE;

-- SUPPORT A CALL FROM PRESIDENT KOTAITE FOR AN INVESTIGATION;

-- TABLE OR SUPPORT A RESOLUTION ALONG THE LINES OF TAB 2, IF NEEDED;

-- DEMONSTRATE OUR SUPPORT FOR ICAO BY ANNOUNCING OUR INTENTION TO SUBMIT TO THE SENATE FOR ADVICE AND CONSENT TO RATIFICATION OF ARTICLE 3 BIS OF THE CHICAGO CONVENTION, WHICH WE HELPED NEGOTIATE AFTER THE 1983 KAL INCIDENT AND SIGNED AT THAT TIME. THIS PROVISION CODIFIES CUSTOMARY INTERNATIONAL LAW THAT "EVERY STATE MUST REFRAIN FROM RESORTING TO THE USE OF WEAPONS AGAINST CIVIL AIRCRAFT IN FLIGHT," WHILE SPECIFICALLY PRESERVING THE RIGHTS OF STATE (I.E., SELF-DEFENSE) UNDER THE U.N. CHARTER.

LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION TO THE EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

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THE UNITED STATES IS REPRESENTED ON THE ICAO COUNCIL BY A PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, EDMUND STONE. DURING THE

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EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL SESSION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE KAL SHOOTDOWN, THE U.S. WAS REPRESENTED BY THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION. WE EXPECT THAT OTHER MEMBER STATES WILL BE REPRESENTED BY THEIR PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES BUT, FOR THE PRESENT, THE UNITED STATES SHOULD KEEP THE LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION OPEN.

MELVYN LEVITSKY
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

ATTACHMENTS:

TAB 1. MEMBERS OF ICAO COUNCIL
TAB 2. DRAFT RESOLUTION

DRAFTED:L:EVERVILLE; L/EBC:SWITTEN
7/7/88 647-7942 647-7772

CLEARANCES:
P:MAARMACOST
L:ADSOFAER
IO:RWILLIAMSON/SVOGELGESANG
EB:JSHANE
NEA:LPOPE
DOT:DHORN
DOT/FAA:IHOWIE

TAB 1

- INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION (ICAO)
- 1000 SHERBROOK STREET WEST
- MONTREAL, QUEBEC, CANADA
- H3A 2R2

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EXECUTIVE HEAD. ASSAD KOTAITE (LEBANESE), PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL, TERM EXPIRES OCTOBER 1989.

ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT. THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION (ICAO) WAS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION, WHICH WAS CONCLUDED AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ON DECEMBER 7, 1944.

THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION IS A SPECIALIZED AGENCY OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS. THIS AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO FORCE ON MAY 13, 1947.

PURPOSE. THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ORGANIZATION AS SET FORTH IN ARTICLE 44 OF THE CONVENTION ON

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INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ARE "TO DEVELOP THE PRINCIPLES AND TECHNIQUES OF INTERNATIONAL AIR NAVIGATION AND TO FOSTER THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT SO AS TO INSURE THE SAFE AND ORDERLY GROWTH OF INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION THROUGHOUT THE WORLD; ENCOURAGE THE ARTS OF AIRCRAFT DESIGN AND OPERATION FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES; ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF AIRWAYS, AIRPORTS, AND AIR NAVIGATION FACILITIES FOR INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION; MEET THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD FOR SAFE, REGULAR, EFFICIENT, AND ECONOMICAL AIR TRANSPORT; PREVENT ECONOMIC WASTE CAUSED BY UNREASONABLE COMPETITION; INSURE THAT THE RIGHTS OF CONTRACTING STATES ARE FULLY RESPECTED AND THAT EVERY CONTRACTING STATE HAS A FAIR OPPORTUNITY TO OPERATE INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES; AVOID DISCRIMINATION BETWEEN CONTRACTING STATES; PROMOTE SAFETY OF FLIGHT IN INTERNATIONAL AIR NAVIGATION; AND PROMOTE GENERALLY THE

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DEVELOPMENT OF ALL ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AERONAUTICS."

STRUCTURE. THE ICAO ASSEMBLY, WHICH CONSISTS OF ALL MEMBER STATES, MEETS AT LEAST ONCE EVERY THREE YEARS. THE 25TH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY, HELD IN SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1986, ELECTED THE FOLLOWING 33 STATES AS MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL FOR A 3-YEAR PERIOD:

ARGENTINA
AUSTRALIA
BRAZIL
CANADA
CHINA, PEOPLE'S REP. OF
CUBA
CZECHOSLOVAKIA
EGYPT
FRANCE
GERMANY, FED. REP. OF
GHANA
INDIA
INDONESIA
IRAQ
ITALY
JAPAN
KENYA
MEXICO
NIGERIA
PAKISTAN
PANAMA
PERU
SAUDI ARABIA
SENEGAL

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SPAIN
SWEDEN
SWITZERLAND
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
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TANZANIA
TUNISIA
U.S.S.R.
UNITED KINGDOM
UNITED STATES
VENEZUELA

THE COUNCIL AND ITS AIR TRANSPORT, JOINT SUPPORT, FINANCE, AND UNLAWFUL INTERFERENCE COMMITTEES, THE LEGAL COMMITTEE, AND THE AIR NAVIGATION COMMISSION (COMPOSED OF 15 PERSONS QUALIFIED IN THE SCIENCE OF AERONAUTICS) PROVIDE THE CONTINUING DIRECTION OF THE WORK OF ICAO. WORLDWIDE AND REGIONAL MEETINGS OF ICAO MEMBER STATES MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COUNCIL AND ITS SUBORDINATE BODIES CONCERNING THE MANY DIFFERENT PROBLEMS ARISING IN INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION. FROM TIME TO TIME PANELS OF EXPERTS ARE CONVENED TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON HIGHLY SPECIALIZED SUBJECTS.

INITIAL DATE OF U.S. PARTICIPATION. 1945, PROVISIONAL INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION; AND 1947, INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION.

CURRENT AUTHORITY FOR U.S. PARTICIPATION. CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION. DECEMBER 7, 1944, 61 STAT. 1180, TIAS 1591.

TAB 2

- DRAFT RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL

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NOTING WITH GREAT REGRET THE TRAGIC LOSS OF LIFE RESULTING FROM THE ACCIDENTAL DESTRUCTION OF AN IRAN AIR LINES CIVIL AIRCRAFT IN THE PERSIAN GULF ON JULY 3, 1988,

CONVEYING ITS DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILIES OF THE PERSONS WHO WERE KILLED IN THIS TRAGIC INCIDENT,

RECALLING THAT A FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION (ICAO) IS TO

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PROMOTE SAFETY OF FLIGHT IN INTERNATIONAL AIR NAVIGATION
AND TO ENSURE THE SAFE AND ORDERLY GROWTH OF
INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION THROUGHOUT THE WORLD,

REAFFIRMING THE PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE OF THE SAFETY OF
INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION AND RECOGNIZING THAT THE
CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION (THE CHICAGO
CONVENTION) OBLIGATES STATES PARTIES, WHEN ISSUING
REGULATIONS FOR THEIR STATE AIRCRAFT, TO HAVE DUE REGARD
FOR THE SAFETY OF NAVIGATION OF CIVIL AIRCRAFT,

NOTING THAT ICAO HAS ADDRESSED THE SUBJECT OF AIRCRAFT
ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION IN AN ANNEX TO THE CHICAGO
CONVENTION,

AFFIRMING THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE THAT STATES MUST
REFRAIN FROM RESORTING TO THE USE OF WEAPONS AGAINST
CIVIL AIRCRAFT IN FLIGHT,

ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS EXPRESSED ITS
DEEP REGRET FOR THIS INCIDENT (AND EXPRESSED ITS
INTENTION TO COMPENSATE THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS),

DETERMINED TO PREVENT A RECURRENCE OF THIS TYPE OF
INCIDENT,

(1) DIRECTS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO INSTITUTE AN
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IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE THE FACTS AND
TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THIS INCIDENT AND TO PROVIDE AN
INTERIM REPORT TO THE COUNCIL WITHIN (30) DAYS OF THE
ADOPTION OF THIS RESOLUTION AND A COMPLETE REPORT AS SOON
AS POSSIBLE THEREAFTER,

(2) URGES ALL PARTIES TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH THE
INVESTIGATION,

(3) DIRECTS THE AIR NAVIGATION COMMISSION,

(A) TO REVIEW THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION, ITS
ANNEXES AND OTHER RELATED DOCUMENTS TO CONSIDER WHETHER
AMENDMENTS ARE NEEDED TO PREVENT A RECURRENCE OF THIS
TYPE OF TRAGIC INCIDENT, WITH EMPHASIS ON SUCH AREAS AS

(I) PROCEDURES FOR IDENTIFICATION OF AREAS OF MILITARY
CONFLICT WHICH MIGHT AFFECT CIVIL AVIATION;

(II) PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED TO ENSURE THE SAFE
OPERATION OF CIVIL AIRCRAFT IN THOSE AREAS;

(III) PROCEDURES FOR TRANSMISSION OF INFORMATION

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REGARDING OPERATIONS OF CIVIL AIRCRAFT, INCLUDING CIVIL
FLIGHT PLANS AND AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL INFORMATION;

(B) TO SUBMIT TO THE COUNCIL AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE
DATE A STUDY CONCERNING APPROPRIATE STEPS TO IMPROVE
COMMUNICATION BETWEEN CIVIL AIRCRAFT AND MILITARY
AIRCRAFT AND VESSELS. WHITEHEAD

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, MOPS, TW, US, IR
SUBJECT: THE IRAN AIRBUS TRAGEDY

REF: WASHDC 214700

TALKING POINTS REPTTEL WERE PRESENTED TO CCNAA SECRETARY GENERAL C.Y. CHU JULY 8 BY AIT GENERAL AFFAIRS CHIEF AND TECHNICAL SECTION OFFICER. CCNAA QUESTIONS INCLUDED DISCUSSION OF WHY SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT ABOARD VINCENNES WAS UNABLE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN CIVILIAN AIRLINER AND JET FIGHTER. CCNAA WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN RECEIVING ASSURANCES THAT U.S. POLICY ON AIDING THIRD-COUNTRY VESSELS IN DISTRESS IN THE GULF WOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED. AIT ASSURED THEM THAT THIS WAS THE CASE. DEAN

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NEA:APBURLEIGH

IO:BSCHRAGE

PM:TOTIS

EUR/SOV:BBURTON

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S/S-O: JFELT

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TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, MOPS, UNSC, IR, US

SUBJECT: THE IRAN AIRBUS TRAGEDY

REF: STATE 214700

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. EMBASSIES SHOULD MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS TO HOST GOVERNMENTS AT SENIOR LEVELS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WITH REGARD TO THE IRAN AIRBUS TRAGEDY, REPORTING REACTIONS. PLEASE TAILOR THE POINTS ACCORDING TO LOCAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

3. BEGIN TALKING POINTS:

-- AS YOU KNOW, THE PRESIDENT HAS IMMEDIATELY EXPRESSED

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DEEP REGRET OVER THE DEATH OF INNOCENT PEOPLE. (PROVIDE TEXT OF PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT FROM REFTEL.)

-- ADMIRAL CROWE, CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF THE STAFF, HAS SET FORTH THE FACTS AS FULLY AS POSSIBLE. (PROVIDE TEXT OF CROWE STATEMENT FROM REFTEL.)

-- OUR OWN INTERNAL MILITARY INVESTIGATION IS UNDERWAY. WE WILL ALSO COOPERATE IN EVERY APPROPRIATE MANNER WITH

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ANY ICAO INVESTIGATION INTO THIS INCIDENT. WE HOPE THAT IRAN WILL DO SO AS WELL BY PROVIDING INTERNATIONAL BODIES ACCESS TO THE FLIGHT RECORDER.

-- IRANIAN CHARGES THAT THE INCIDENT WAS DELIBERATELY CAUSED BY THE U.S. ARE GROUNDLESS. IT WAS, AS THE PRESIDENT HAS SAID, A TRAGIC ACCIDENT.

-- IN THIS REGARD, IRAN BEARS A MEASURE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INCIDENT. IRANIAN SMALL BOATS HAD ENGAGED IN UNPROVOKED ATTACKS AGAINST A DANISH SHIP AND A U.S. HELICOPTER. OUR FORCES WERE RESPONDING TO THESE IRANIAN ATTACKS WHEN THE INCIDENT OCCURRED.

-- MORE BROADLY, THE TRAGEDY IS THE RESULT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR, AND IRANIAN THREATS TO NAVIGATION IN THE GULF WHICH HAVE REQUIRED THE U.S. NAVAL PRESENCE. TO BLAME THE U.S. NAVAL PRESENCE IS TO IGNORE THESE REALITIES. WE HAVE ALWAYS TAKEN THE POSITION THAT THE U.S. (AND WE PRESUME OTHER) NAVAL PRESENCE WILL BE REDUCED WHEN THE THREAT RECEDES.

-- IN THE DAYS AND WEEKS AHEAD, WE URGE OTHERS TO BRING

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THEIR INFLUENCE TO BEAR ON IRAN IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE TO DISCOURAGE THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT FROM ACTING IN A WAY WHICH INFLAMES PASSIONS, TO AVOID ACTIONS SUCH AS ATTACKS ON NEUTRAL SHIPPING, AND TO REFRAIN FROM ATTACKS ON U.S. FORCES WHICH ARE DESIGNED TO PROVOKE A U.S. RESPONSE. WE DO NOT SEEK A CONFRONTATION WITH IRAN, BUT WILL MAINTAIN OUR POLICY OF RESPONDING FORCEFULLY TO ATTACK AND OF ASSISTING NEUTRAL SHIPPING ASKING FOR HELP.

-- IT IS ALSO RELEVANT TO NOTE THAT ALTHOUGH WE HAVE LONG EXPRESSED READINESS, BOTH PUBLICLY AND THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS, TO MEET WITH AN AUTHORITATIVE IRANIAN OFFICIAL, WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS, TO DISCUSS OUR DIFFERENCES, IRAN HAS NEVER RESPONDED WITH AN EQUAL WILLINGNESS.

-- THIS HUMAN TRAGEDY WILL NOT AFFECT OUR POLICY IN THE PERSIAN GULF. WE WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE PRINCIPLE OF FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION THROUGH OUR DIPLOMACY AND THROUGH OUR NAVAL PRESENCE.

-- IT STRENGTHENS US IN OUR DETERMINATION TO FIND THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE END TO THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR. THE INNOCENT VICTIMS OF THIS TRAGEDY ARE THE LATEST AMONG HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF CASUALTIES OF A WAR WHICH SHOULD HAVE ENDED YEARS AGO.

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-- WE URGE OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO JOIN US IN THIS EFFORT.

-- THE UNITED STATES PLAYED A LEADING ROLE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH LED TO THE UNANIMOUS ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 598 ALMOST A YEAR AGO. THAT RESOLUTION PROVIDES THE BASIS FOR A JUST, DURABLE, NEGOTIATED PEACE.

-- WE BELIEVE THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD, AND PARTICULARLY THE MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, SHOULD ACT WITH

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RENEWED DEDICATION TO BRING THIS WAR TO AN END BY ACTING DECISIVELY TO ENFORCE THE PROVISIONS OF RESOLUTION 598.

FOR SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

-- AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE LONG FELT THAT THE COUNCIL SHOULD ACT TO ENFORCE RESOLUTION 598 BY IMPOSING AN ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST IRAN AS THE NONCOMPLYING PARTY. THIS REMAINS OUR VIEW. WE HAVE TAKEN THIS POSITION NOT OUT OF A DESIRE TO PUNISH IRAN BUT OUT OF A CONVICTION THAT THIS IS A NECESSARY NEXT STEP TOWARDS ENDING THIS WAR.

-- WE REGRET THAT THE COUNCIL HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO ACT, AND BELIEVE THE COUNCIL BEARS A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO ACT NOW TO END THE WAR. WE ARE PREPARED TO LISTEN WITH AN OPEN MIND TO NEW PROPOSALS FOR ACTION TO IMPLEMENT UNSCR 598 FULLY AND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, INCLUDING A CEASEFIRE ON LAND SEA AND AIR.

-- WE WILL ONLY AGREE TO AN APPROACH TO IMPLEMENTATION WHICH UPHOLDS THE ESSENCE OF RESOLUTION 598. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT VITIATING 598 IN AN EFFORT TO BRING IRAN TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE WILL WORK, AND WE BELIEVE THAT THE INTEGRITY OF RESOLUTION 598 SHOULD BE KEPT INTACT FOR THE DAY WHEN THE TWO SIDES ARE PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE ITS IMPLEMENTATION.

-- WE ARE ALSO MINDFUL THAT GETTING IRAN TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE IS ONLY HALF THE BATTLE. IRAQ'S LEGITIMATE CONCERNS OVER IMPLEMENTATION MUST ALSO BE MET, THOUGH WE BELIEVE THAT IRAQ SHOULD COMPLEMENT ITS STRONG MILITARY POSITION WITH A LESS RIGID APPROACH TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF 598.

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-- AS COUNCIL MEMBERS, WE HAVE A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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IN THIS SITUATION. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR URGENT VIEWS
ON WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENFORCE AND THEREBY FULLY
IMPLEMENT RESOLUTION 598.

-- WE WILL APPROACH THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE WHICH
IRAN HAS SOUGHT IN A CONSTRUCTIVE WAY. WE LOOK FORWARD
TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH YOU IN THE COUNCIL IN THIS
EFFORT, MINDFUL THAT OUR COMMON GOAL MUST REMAIN PEACE
AND THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION
598. WHITEHEAD

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88STATE 218363

DEPARTMENT OF STATE 920393

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TAGS: PREL, US, ASEAN

SUBJECT:OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. (U) FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF ASEAN COUNTRY REACTIONS TO THE U.S. NAVY DOWNING OF AN IRANIAN CIVILIAN AIRLINER.

2. (U) PHILIPPINES: BEGIN TEXT OF STATEMENT BY ACTING FOREIGN SECRETARY JOSE INGLES: THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT EXTENDS ITS HEARTFELT SYMPATHY TO THE BEREAVED FAMILIES OF THE PASSENGERS OF THE ILL-FATED IRANIAN AIR FLIGHT 655 THAT WAS SHOT DOWN ON A FLIGHT FROM BANDAR ABBAS TO DUBAI. IN REITERATING ITS APPEAL FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT IN THE GULF, THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT PROFOUNDLY REGRETS THIS LOSS OF INNOCENT LIVES AND EARNESTLY HOPES THAT ALL PARTIES CONCERNED WILL TAKE EFFECTIVE STEPS TO PREVENT A REPETITION OF THIS DEPLORABLE INCIDENT. THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD IN ENSURING THAT COMMERCIAL AIRLINES

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ARE GUARANTEED FREEDOM OF AIR NAVIGATION IN THE GULF. END TEXT.

3. (U) PHILIPPINES PRESS REACTION: THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER EDITORIALIZED THAT "IT TOOK WASHINGTON NEARLY 24 HOURS TO ADMIT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ATTACK" AND

QUESTIONED WHAT GOOD IT WOULD DO FOR THE PRESIDENT TO OFFER HIS APOLOGIES TO THE VICTIMS' FAMILIES. THE PAPER

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ALSO SAID "THE U.S. ATTACK ON AN UNARMED COMMERCIAL JET IS EVIDENCE THAT IRANIANS AND OTHER THIRD WORLD PEOPLES DO NOT HAVE A MONOPOLY ON TERRORISM. AMERICANS, TOO, ARE JUST AS CAPABLE OF IT." THE MANILA CHRONICLE EDITORIALIZED THAT THE PRESIDENT'S CLAIM OF PROPER DEFENSE ACTION "BETRAYS AN ATTITUDE THAT SHOULD CAUSE HORROR WHEN ONE CONSIDERS ITS IMPLICATIONS" AND SHOWS THAT "AMERICANS CAN BE JUST AS MURDEROUS AS THE SOVIETS. AND WHAT ABOUT THE ROLE OF THE PHILIPPINES IN SUSTAINING THIS DUBIOUS POLITICAL-ECONOMIC-MILITARY EFFORT? IT IS THE 'AMERICAN FACILITIES IN PHILIPPINE BASES' WHICH PROJECT U.S. MILITARY POWER TO THE GULF AND WHICH SUSTAIN THE U.S. NAVY AND ITS INVOLVEMENT."

4. (U) BEGIN TEXT OF MALAYSIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT: THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT DEPLORES THE SHOOTING DOWN OF AN IRANIAN AIRLINER BY U.S. NAVAL FORCES IN THE GULF WHICH RESULTED IN THE DEATHS OF SO MANY INNOCENT PASSENGERS AND THE CREW. IT IS DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE OR ACCEPT THAT, GIVEN THE SOPHISTICATION OF U.S. COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF TRAINING OF THOSE WHO MANNED THEM, THE U.S. FORCES COULD HAVE COMMITTED THE GRAVE ERROR, AS CLAIMED, OF MISTAKING A LARGE CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT FOR A MILITARY ONE. THIS

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UNMITIGATED DISASTER HAS CAUSED CONSTERNATION AND DEEP ANGUISH, AND IT IS EARNESTLY HOPED THAT EVERYTHING WILL BE DONE TO AVOID A REPEAT OF THIS TRAGIC INCIDENT. THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT EXTENDS ITS DEEPEST CONDOLENCES AND PROFOUND SYMPATHY TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF IRAN AND TO MEMBERS OF THE BEREAVED FAMILIES OVER THE LOSS OF THEIR BELOVED ONES. END TEXT.

5. (C) EMBASSY K.L. CONFIRMED WITH MFA THAT THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT CAME DIRECTLY FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE. MFA CONTACT NOTED THAT THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT STOPPED SHORT OF CALLING THE ATTACK INTENTIONAL, USING OTHER WORDS TO LEAVE "SOME ROOM FOR DOUBT."

6. (U) MALAYSIAN PRESS REACTION: NEWSPAPERS IN THE NEW STRAITS TIMES GROUP, WHICH ARE OWNED BY UMNO, HAVE TAKEN AN EXTREMELY NEGATIVE STANCE ON THE SHOOTDOWN. THE NEW STRAITS TIMES COMMENTED THAT AMERICA'S "HANDS ARE ONCE AGAIN STAINED WITH THE BLOOD OF INNOCENT PEOPLE." UTUSAN MALAYSIA, THE LARGEST-CIRCULATING PAPER, ASSERTED THAT THE IRANIAN JET WAS SHOT DOWN "INTENTIONALLY, TO SEEK REVENGE." BOTH PAPERS SELECTIVELY INCLUDED WIRE-SERVICE ARTICLES, OMITTING ONES REPORTING DEFENSE OF THE U.S.

ACTION BY UK PM THATCHER AND THE LOW-KEY REACTION BY ARAB STATES. COVERAGE IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE STAR WAS LESS

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HARSHLY CRITICAL. TV COVERAGE WAS CONFINED TO THE LATTER HALF OF NEWS SHOWS, AND THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWS PROGRAM INCLUDED FILM OF A DOD SPOKESMAN EXPLAINING WHY THE U.S. SHIP BELIEVED THE JET WAS HOSTILE.

7. (U) INDONESIA: FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS OF OFFICIAL GOI STATEMENT: THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT REGRETS THE SHOOTING DOWN OF AN IRANIAN AIRBUS A-300 AIRLINER BY THE U.S., KILLING ALL 290 INNOCENT PASSENGERS ON BOARD THE AIRPLANE. THE TRAGEDY SHOWS THE INCREASING IMPORTANCE OF

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EFFORTS TO STOP THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR. THE INCREASING NUMBER OF FOREIGN FORCES ENTERING THE GULF REGION HAS INCREASED THE RISK OF INVOLVEMENT IN WAR. INDONESIA EXPECTS ALL PARTIES TO RESTRAIN THEMSELVES AND TO REFRAIN FROM ACTS WHICH COULD ACCELERATE THE CONFLICT AND TO PREVENT RECURRENCE OF SIMILAR TRAGEDIES. END TEXT.

8. (U) INDONESIAN PAPERS REPORTED PUBLIC REACTIONS FROM PROMINENT INDONESIANS THAT WERE FAR LESS UNDERSTANDING. THE VENACULAR PRESS GAVE THE STORY BOLD HEADLINES LIKE THE MUSLIM DAILY PELITA'S, "THE WORLD REGRETS AMERICA'S ACTION." THE MILITARY-BACKED PAPER JAYAKARTA QUOTED CONTENTIONS OF IRAN'S AMBASSADOR THAT THE SHOOT DOWN WAS A "WAR CRIME." THE NATIONALIST LEFTIST INDEPENDENT MERKEDA CALLED THE U.S. SADISTIC AND THE NAVY'S STATED REASON OF MISIDENTIFICATION A "FLAGRANT LIE."

9. (U) THAI MEDIA REACTION: BANGKOK POST BILLED THE INCIDENT AS A "TERRIBLE TRAGEDY," USING THE SAME WORDS AS PRESIDENT REAGAN. IT FURTHER EDITORIALIZED THAT "OFFERING COMPENSATION...MAY HELP IN THE MATERIAL SENSE, BUT THE U.S. MAY NEED TO DO MORE, POLITICALLY OR DIPLOMATICALLY, TO DIFFUSE THE CRISIS AND RESTORE CONFIDENCE IN AMERICAN POLICIES, INTENTIONS AND ACTIONS." THE INDEPENDENT DAILY THE NATION QUESTIONED BY IMPLICATION THE JUDGEMENT OF THE VINCENNES' CAPTAIN. IN THE MASS-CIRCULATION THAI RATH, MEANWHILE, COLUMNIST JUPITER WROTE THAT "THE U.S. HAS TO BE CONDEMNED AND CURSED." AN EDITORIAL IN THE LIBERAL MATICHON ENTITLED "WE CONDEMN THE U.S. FOR THE IRAN AIR INCIDENT" SAID IN PART, "IT'S HIGH TIME THE U.S. CHANGED ITS PERSIAN GULF POLICY. THE MISTAKE OF THE USS VINCENNES IS MINISCULE COMPARED TO THE MISTAKES OF THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION FROM THE BEGINNING IN THE PERSIAN GULF

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CONFLICT." (FYI: NO OFFICIAL RTG STATEMENT WAS REPORTED.)

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9. (~~LOW~~) AS OF COB JULY 7 DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED NO
REPORTING FROM EMBASSIES SINGAPORE OR BRUNEI ON THE

AIRLINER DOWNING. WHITEHEAD

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PLEASE PASS TO CHARLES REDMAN

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, EVENING TV NEWS

ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT

1. IRANIAN AIRLINER - STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS SAY THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION IS LEANING TOWARD PAYING COMPENSATION TO FAMILIES OF THE 290 KILLED ABOARD THE IRANIAN PASSENGER PLANE. OFFICIALS SAY A FINAL DECISION MUST STILL BE MADE BY THE PRESIDENT. THE U.S. HAS PROVIDED COMPENSATION TO VICTIMS IN SIMILAR SITUATIONS BEFORE. LEGAL SCHOLARS POINT OUT THERE ARE IMPORTANT FACTORS BEYOND THE LAW THAT HELP DETERMINE IF COMPENSATION WILL BE PAID. THERE IS STRONG SENTIMENT ON CAPITOL HILL IN FAVOR OF COMPENSATION BUT SOME HAVE A POLITICAL TWIST. THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS ARGUING AGAINST SUCH LINKAGE SAYING THE HOSTAGE ISSUE MUST BE RESOLVED AS A SEPARATE QUESTION. ADMINISTRATION SOURCES SAY THEY ARE NOW STRUGGLING WITH THE MECHANICS OF HOW CLAIMS WOULD BE HEARD AND HOW MUCH MONEY MIGHT ULTIMATELY BE PAID OUT. THE KIND
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OF DETAILS THAT MUST BE IN HAND BEFORE THE PRESIDENT IS ASKED TO MAKE A FINAL DECISION SOMETIME IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. (JOHN MCWETHY)

2. GULF - THOUSANDS OF IRANIANS ATTENDED THE MASS FUNERAL TODAY. THERE WAS MUCH PUBLIC GRIEVING AND CHANTS OF DEATH TO AMERICA. IN THE WATERS OF THE SOUTHERN GULF THE AMERICAN WARSHIP U.S.S HANCOCK WAS ON PATROL AND VERY MUCH ON ALERT. THE IRANIANS APPARENTLY INTEND TO KEEP U.S.

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OFFICIALS GUESSING AS TO WHEN HOW OR WHERE ANY RETALIATION MIGHT BE CARRIED OUT. IN THE MEANTIME IRAN IS TAKING FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE WORLDWIDE ATTENTION WHICH IS FOCUSED ON THE KILLINGS OF THE 290 CIVILIAN PASSENGERS. ON IRANIAN TV PRESIDENT ALI KHAMENI, APPARENTLY REFERRING TO AN EARLIER STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT REAGAN, SAID TODAY "THE MATTER IS NOT CLOSED; IT IS JUST BEGINING." AN EVEN TOUGHER LINE CAME TODAY FROM AYATOLLAH MATASSERI (SP), THE HEIR APPARENT TO AYATOLLAH KHOMEINI. HE CALLED FOR IMMEDIATE TERRORIST ATTACKS UPON U.S. TARGETS WORLDWIDE. BUT KHOMEINI HIMSELF HAS THROWN HIS WEIGHT BEHIND A MORE MODERATE APPROACH TO TRY TO PUNISH THE U.S. THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT DOES APPEAR TO BE OPTING FOR A VERBAL VIOLENCE AGAINST THE U.S. RATHER THAN TERRORISM AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT. (MIKE LEE, GULF)

B. CBS EVENING NEWS

1. FLIGHT 655 AFTERMATH - DEFENSE SECRETARY CARLUCCI BRIEFED SENATORS TODAY ON THE DOWNING OF THE IRAN AIR BUS. MEMBERS OF CONGRESS BRIEFED IN SECRET BY PENTAGON OFFICIALS ARE NOW HEARING A DIFFERENT STORY THAN WAS FIRST REPORTED. (FOOTAGE OF LES ASPIN: "THAT THE AIRLINER WAS FLYING, WAS OFF COURSE BY ABOUT FOUR MILES. IT DID NOT UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

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MEAN IT WAS OUTSIDE THE CORRIDOR. IT IS STILL, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, WITHIN THE CORRIDOR, BUT FOUR MILES WEST OF THE CENTER LINE OF THE CORRIDOR.") SINCE THE CORRIDOR IS 20 MILES WIDE AT THAT POINT, BEING FOUR MILES OFF THE CENTER LINE WOULD STILL LEAVE THE AIR BUS WELL WITHIN THE CORRIDOR, ALTHOUGH THE PENTAGON POINTS OUT THAT BEING IN THE CORRIDOR IS NO GUARANTEE AN AIRCRAFT IS FRIENDLY. A LOT OF QUESTIONS WILL HAVE TO BE ANSWERED BY THE TEAM OF INVESTIGATORS NOW ABOARD THE VINCENNES. NO ONE IS SUGGESTING THE PENTAGON IS PUTTING OUT MISLEADING INFORMATION IN AN ATTEMPT TO JUSTIFY THE DOWNING OF THE IRANIAN AIRPLANE. THE CONCERN IS INVESTIGATORS WILL FIND OUT THAT THE DATA CAPTAIN WILL ROGERS RELIED ON IN MAKING HIS DECISION TO FIRE WAS WRONG. (DAVID MARTIN)

IN BANDAR ABBAS THEY MARCHED THROUGH THE STREETS CHANTING THE FAMILIAR CRIES OF "DEATH TO AMERICA." IRAN CONTINUES TO SEARCH THE GULF WATERS FOR MORE BODIES. AN INTENSE EFFORT IS BEING MADE TO FIND THE PLANE'S BLACK BOX, WHICH COULD PROVE IRAN'S CLAIM THAT THE AIRLINER WAS ON COURSE

AND CLIMBING. JOURNALISTS WERE SHOWN A MAKESHIFT MORGUE AND WRECKAGE OF THE PLANE, AS IRAN PRESSES ITS SUDDEN PROPAGANDA GAME, MAKING SURE THIS TRAGEDY DOESN'T SLIP FROM THE FRONT PAGES. MODERATE FORCES IN IRAN LED BY PARLIAMENT SPEAKER RAFSANJANI HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN

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HOLDING BACK EXTREMIST REACTIONS TO THE DOWNING OF THE PLANE. THE LEBANESE TERRORIST GROUP THAT ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY THAT IT WOULD KILL AN AMERICAN HOSTAGE SAID TODAY AT THE REQUEST OF RAFSANJANI THE EXECUTION OF TERRY ANDERSON IS POSTPONED. (TOM FENTON, LONDON)

2. MATTER OF "REPARATIONS" - THE IDEA BEHIND PAYING REPARATIONS TO IRAN OR THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS IS DRIVEN MORE IN A SPIRIT THAT THE U.S. NOT APPEAR CALLOUS, AND ALSO THAT IT IS SIMPLY THE RIGHT THING TO DO. LAWYERS
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ARE IN A QUANDRY OVER PAYING ANYTHING THAT WOULD MAKE THE U.S. COME ACROSS AS IF THE MILITARY HAD DONE ANYTHING MORALLY WRONG. THAT MEANS THERE WILL BE A CHANGE OF VOCABULARY. THE U.S. WILL PUSH HARD TO CALL WHATEVER IS PAID NOT "REPARATIONS"--WHICH WOULD IMPLY GUILT--BUT RATHER "HUMANITARIAN COMPENSATION". IT IS ALSO A FOREGONE CONCLUSION AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT THAT WHATEVER IS PAID WILL BE PAID TO THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS AND NOT A PENNY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE AYATOLLAH. (WYATT ANDREWS)

C. NBC NIGHTLY NEWS

1. FLIGHT 655 AFTERMATH - SECRETARY CARLUCCI WENT TO CAPITOL HILL TO BRIEF LAWMAKERS, BUT EACH ANSWER PROMPTS MORE QUESTIONS OVER FLIGHT 655. IN ONE BRIEFING TODAY MILITARY OFFICIALS TOLD SENATORS THE AIRLINER WAS NOT OUTSIDE THE CIVILIAN AIR CORRIDOR WHEN IT WAS SHOT DOWN. PENTAGON OFFICIALS NOW ADMIT TO SOME CONFUSION OVER THE WIDTH OF THE CIVILIAN AIR CORRIDOR. THEY SAY IT WAS UNCLEAR WHETHER THE CORRIDOR IS 8 OR 20 MILES WIDE AT THE POINT WHERE THE AIRLINER WAS SHOT DOWN. ACCORDING TO OFFICIALS, IT IS BELIEVED THE PLANE VEERED OFF ITS DIRECT COURSE, THEN MADE A MID-COURSE CORRECTION THAT HEADED DIRECTLY TOWARD THE VINCENNES. THERE WERE ALSO REPORTS THE VINCENNES MAY HAVE PICKED UP AN F-14 MILITARY RADIO SIGNAL FROM ANOTHER IRANIAN PLANE IN THE AREA AND CONFUSED THAT WITH THE CIVILIAN AIRLINER. PENTAGON OFFICIALS SAY THE ONLY OTHER PLANE NEARBY WAS AN IRANIAN P-3 THAT HAD TAKEN OFF FROM BANDAR ABBAS HEADED AWAY FROM THE VINCENNES. PENTAGON SOURCES REPORT THE IRANIAN AIRLINER WAS TRANSMITTING A MILITARY RADIO SIGNAL FROM TAKEOFF TO THE TIME IT WAS SHOT DOWN AND THAT THE SIGNAL COULD NOT HAVE BEEN CONFUSED WITH ANOTHER PLANE. (JIM
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IRAN'S SPEAKER OF THE PARLIAMENT HAS NOT JOINED THE CALL FOR IMMEDIATE RETALIATION. RAFSANJANI SAYS THAT IS WHAT THE U.S. WANTS. HE SAID, "WE WILL DECIDE WHEN TO RETALIATE, NOT AMERICA." HE ADDED, "WE SHOULD SEE WHAT THE U.N. WILL DO." HE WANTS THE U.N. AND THE CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY TO CONDEMN THE U.S. BUT THE AYATOLLAH MATASSERI, THE DESIGNATED SUCCESSOR TO AYATOLLAH KHOMEINI, HAS JOINED THE HARDLINERS IN A CALL FOR WAR AGAINST THE U.S. PRESIDENT KHAMENI CALLED FOR ALL OUT STRUGGLE. IN RESPONSE, A LETTER FROM AYATOLLAH KHOMEINI CALLED FOR A WAR OF IDEOLOGY AND CONVICTION, NOT OF WEAPONS. THE ANGER CANNOT BE STOPPED. (RICK DAVIS, TEHRAN)

2. THE U.S. AND ITS ALLIES - AMERICAN OFFICIALS NOW ACKNOWLEDGE THE IRAN-CONTRA SCANDAL WAS ONE OF THE UNSTATED REASONS THE U.S. NAVY WENT INTO THE GULF IN A BIG WAY. ARAB NATIONS WERE APPALLED THAT THE U.S. PROVIDED ARMS TO THEIR ENEMY IRAN. BY SENDING IN THE NAVY, THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION HOPED TO REASSURE THE ALARMED ARABS THAT THE U.S. WOULD NOT PERMIT THE IRANIANS TO EXPAND THEIR WAR WITH IRAQ TO OTHER ARAB NATIONS. TODAY, THE STATE DEPARTMENT CONFIRMED THAT ONE OF THE AMERICAN GOALS WAS TO REGAIN TRUST. (FOOTAGE OF PHYLLIS OAKLEY: "YES, CLEARLY I THINK THAT WE HAVE RESTORED OUR CREDIBILITY AS A RELIABLE PARTNER.") THE DOWNING OF THE AIRLINER HAS SO FAR NOT LED TO A CHORUS OF CONDEMNATIONS FROM AMERICAN ALLIES, PARTLY BECAUSE THEY NEED THE OIL CARGO THE U.S. NAVY IS PROTECTING. AMERICAN OFFICIALS TELL NBC NEWS THAT LAST YEAR JAPAN PRIVATELY URGED THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION TO PROTECT GULF SHIPPING, A JOB JAPAN COULD NOT DO BECAUSE ITS OWN CONSTITUTION FORBIDS THE USE OF FORCE TO SETTLE INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES. DESPITE SOME CALLS IN THE U.S. FOR THE NAVY TO PULL OUT OF THE GULF, EUROPE HAS BEEN SURPRISINGLY SILENT. (JOHN COCHRAN)

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3. JOHN CHANCELLOR COMMENTARY - THERE ARE MANY MYSTERIES ABOUT THE TRAGEDY IN THE GULF, BUT ONE SET OF FACTS APPEARS CLEAR ENOUGH. THE AIRLINER WAS WHERE IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN LESS THAN AN HOUR LATE. IT'S A REGULAR FLIGHT TWICE A WEEK. THE VINCENNES CREW LOOKED FOR IT IN THE AIR TRAVEL GUIDE, BUT DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO FIND A LISTING. IT TOOK ME 30 SECONDS TO FIND IT IN OUR GUIDE. DIDN'T ANYBODY WONDER IF THAT BLIP ON THE RADAR SCREEN MIGHT HAVE BEEN FLIGHT 655? IT MAKES YOU WONDER ABOUT TACTICS. VINCENNES IS A CRUISER WITH AEGIS, YET ON SUNDAY THIS STAR WARS SHIP WAS IN A FIGHT WITH SOME 40-FOOT IRANIAN SPEEDBOAT. IT MAKES YOU WONDER ABOUT THE NAVY'S HIGH-TECH EQUIPMENT. REMEMBER THE STARK? IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE PROTECTED BY PHALANX, BUT AN IRAQI MISSILE KILLED 37 MEN.

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IT MAKES YOU WONDER IF ALL THE EMPHASIS ON SUPER SMART WEAPONRY HAS BEEN AT THE EXPENSE OF BASIC EQUIPMENT PREPARATION AND PLANNING. WHEN THE NAVY STEAMED INTO THE GULF THERE WERE MINES ALL OVER THE PLACE, BUT THE NAVY HAD NO MINESWEEPERS. MAYBE THE NAVY SHOULDN'T BE IN THE GULF; SOME NAVY MEN WILL TELL YOU THAT. WE SEEM TO HAVE A TIFFANY NAVY FIGHTING DIME STORE WARS. (JOHN CHANCELLOR)

D. NO FOREIGN POLICY INTERVIEWS ON MACNEIL-LEHRER.

E. ABC NIGHTLINE EXAMINES THE FEASIBILITY OF PAYING REPARATIONS TO THE FAMILIES OF FLIGHT 655'S PASSENGERS. NO ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS SCHEDULED TO APPEAR. VIDEOTAPE OF PROGRAM WILL BE REVIEWED FOR POSSIBLE INCLUSION IN MORNING SUMMARY. WHITEHEAD

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CINCPAC FOR USIA ADVISOR
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E.O. 12356: N/A
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - COVERING JULY 2 - 5, 1988

U.S. DOWNING OF IRANIAN JETLINER:

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THE KOREAN PRINT AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA GAVE PROMINENT
COVERAGE TO WIRE SERVICE REPORTS THAT AN IRANIAN JETLINER
WAS SHOT DOWN BY THE USS VINCENNES IN THE PERSIAN GULF ON
JULY 3.

THE INDEPENDENT DONG-A ILBO'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT
CHUNG CHONG-MUN SAID, "DESPITE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S
OFFICIAL EXPLANATION OF THE INCIDENT, THE TRAGIC MISTAKE
MADE BY THE U.S. WILL LEAD TO ANOTHER HEATED DEBATE OVER

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THE U.S. PERSIAN GULF POLICY."

THE PRO-BUSINESS JOONG-ANG ILBO'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT HAN NAM-GYU SAID, "THE U.S. IS BEING CRITICIZED AROUND THE WORLD FOR THIS ACT. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE'S CRITICISM OF THEIR GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TOWARD THE PERSIAN WAR HAS ALSO INTENSIFIED. THIS INCIDENT HAS DEALT A SEVERE BLOW TO THE SECURITY OF THE FORTHCOMING OLYMPIC GAMES IN SEOUL."

IN AN EDITORIAL, THE PRO-GOVERNMENT KYUNGHYANG SHINMUN SAID, "THE DOWNING OF THE CIVILIAN JETLINER HAS THREATENED THE SAFETY OF CIVILIAN AVIATION. THE U.S. WOULD FIND IT HARD TO AVOID WORLDWIDE CONDEMNATION FOR THIS DISASTROUS ACCIDENT. THIS INCIDENT WILL CERTAINLY DAMAGE THE DIPLOMATIC STATUS OF THE U.S. AND WILL HELP THE SOVIETS RECOVER THE DIPLOMATIC LOSS CAUSED BY THEIR SHOOTING DOWN OF THE KAL JETLINER."

IN ANOTHER COMMENTARY, THE SAME PAPER SAID, "THE ACCIDENT HAS DEALT A FATAL BLOW TO THE U.S. STRATEGY FOR THE PERSIAN GULF."

THE MODERATE HANKOOK ILBO SAID IN AN EDITORIAL, "NO
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ACTION LEADING TO A MASSACRE CAN BE RATIONALIZED, EVEN IF THE U.S. IS GREATLY INTERESTED IN PEACE. WE HOPE THAT THIS HORRIBLE HUMAN TRAGEDY IS NOT A PRODUCT OF THE RAMBO WAY OF THINKING ADOPTED BY MANY AMERICANS."

THE SAME PAPER'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT LEE JAE-SUNG COMMENTED, "HAVING TERMED THE U.S.S.R AN EVIL EMPIRE AFTER THE DOWNING OF A KAL JETLINER, THE U.S. ITSELF IS NOW FACED WITH A MOST DIFFICULT CHALLENGE. THIS INCIDENT MAY CAUSE SEVERE DAMAGE TO U.S. DIPLOMACY, WHICH ALWAYS STRESSES JUSTICE AND MORALITY."

THE CONSERVATIVE CHOSUN ILBO SAID, "WE URGE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO QUICKLY REVEAL ALL THE DETAILS OF THE INCIDENT AND TO ADEQUATELY COMPENSATE THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS. THE U.S. AND OTHER WORLD POWERS SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT THEIR POWER-ORIENTED POLICIES HAVE JUST ESCALATED THE PERSIAN GULF WAR. THEY SHOULD FIND A NEW SOLUTION TO END THE WAR."

IN A COMMENTARY, THE SAME PAPER'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT BYUN YONG-SHIK SAID, "THIS INCIDENT WILL ADVERSELY AFFECT THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IN THE UPCOMING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION."

THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED SEOUL SHINMUN SAID IN AN EDITORIAL, "A THREAT AGAINST A CIVILIAN JETLINER IS A THREAT AGAINST

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THE INTERNATIONAL ORDER ITSELF. WE ARE GRAVELY CONCERNED ABOUT THE ESCALATION OF THE PERSIAN GULF WAR."

THE INDEPENDENT DONG-A ILBO SAID IN AN EDITORIAL, "THE U.S. DOWNING OF THE IRANIAN JETLINER IS NOTHING BUT A BARBARIC ACT. THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR IT. THE U.S. SHOULD PUNISH THOSE WHE ARE FOUND GUILTY OF WAR CRIMES."

THE PRO-BUSINESS JOONG-ANG ILBO SAID IN AN EDITORIAL,

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"THE U.S. SHOULD NOT AVOID ASSUMING RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THIS ACCIDENT AND SHOULD APOLOGIZE PUBLICLY AND COMPENSATE THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS, REGARDLESS OF WHAT CAUSED THE ACCIDENT. THE U.S. SHOULD ACT IMMEDIATELY."

IN AN ESSAY, THE PRO-GOVERNMENT KYUNGHYANG SHINMUN SAID, "BOTH KOREA AND IRAN WILL NEVER FORGET THE DOWNING OF THE KAL AND THE IRANIAN JETLINERS. THE VIOLENCE COMMITTED BY THE TWO SUPERPOWERS WAS EXTREME."

THE ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT HANKYOREH SHINMUN SAID IN AN EDITORIAL, "THE DOWNING OF THE IRANIAN JETLINER DEMONSTRATED NOT ONLY THE VIOLENT NATURE OF THE U.S. BUT ALSO THE INEVITABLE OUTCOME OF ITS GUNBOAT DIPLOMACY IN THE PERSIAN GULF. IF THE U.S. GENUINELY WANTS PEACE THERE, IT SHOULD ADOPT ALL POSSIBLE MEANS TO END THE WAR IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER WORLD POWERS."

--NO COVERAGE OF OTHER WATCHLIST ITEMS. REID
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Date. 9/18/9

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E.O. 12356: ~~DECL: OADR~~
TAGS: MOPS, PREL, IC, IR, US
SUBJECT: ICELANDIC REACTION TO ACCIDENTAL DOWNING OF
- IRANIAN AIRLINER

REF: STATE 214700

1. (C) SUMMARY: THE ICELANDIC PRINT AND BROADCAST MEDIA HAS GIVEN THE ACCIDENTAL DOWNING OF AN IRANIAN AIRLINER IN THE PERSIAN GULF BY THE USS VINCENNES PROMINENT, BUT FACTUAL COVERAGE. ALTHOUGH THE GOI HAS NOT ISSUED A STATEMENT ON THE INCIDENT, THE ACTING PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY OF MFA TOLD THE DCM ON JULY 4 THAT HIS GOVERNMENT DEEPLY REGRETTED THE TRAGEDY, BUT UNDERSTOOD THE DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING IT. ON JULY 6, THE MEDIA REPORTED THAT THE ICELANDIC AMBASSADOR IN STOCKHOLM HAD CALLED ON HIS IRANIAN COUNTER-

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PART TO EXPRESS THE SYMPATHY OF THE ICELANDIC NATION OVER THIS LOSS AND THAT THE NORDIC GOVERNMENTS WERE DISCUSSING THIS INCIDENT AMONG THEMSELVES BUT THAT NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE ON A JOINT STATEMENT OR ANY OTHER COURSE OF ACTION. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) ALTHOUGH THE ICELANDIC MEDIA HAS GIVEN EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO THE DOWNING OF THE IRANIAN AIRLINER, THIS HAS BEEN BASED ON INTERNATIONAL SATELLITE FEEDS AND

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WIRE SERVICE REPORTS. TO DATE, THIS COVERAGE HAS BEEN FACTUAL, INDICATING THAT THE AIRLINER HAD BEEN MISIDENTIFIED DURING THE HEAT OF COMBAT.

3. (U) IN ITS JULY 5 EDITORIALS, CONSERVATIVE MORGUNBLADID, THE ONLY PAPER TO RUN AN EDITORIAL ON THIS INCIDENT SO FAR, CONCLUDED: "RADAR EQUIPMENT AND POWERFUL MISSILES WITH CONVENTIONAL CHARGES DO, IN FACT, RESULT IN NO PLANES BEING SAFE, AS IT WERE. FOR AN ACCIDENT LIKE THAT AT THE PERSIAN GULF LAST SUNDAY MORNING TO BE AT ALL POSSIBLE SHOULD NOT ONLY ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO STOP THE MILITARY CONFLICTS IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD, BUT SHOULD ALSO LEAD TO GENERAL CONCERN ON THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN LIVES IN CIVIL AVIATION AGAINST THIS HI-TEC EQUIPMENT. SURELY THIS TECHNOLOGY CAN BE USED TO PREVENT SUCH THREATS TO CIVILIAN AIRPLANES. WHEN THE TWO GREATEST MILITARY POWERS IN THE WORLD HAVE SHOT AT A FEW HUNDRED INNOCENT CIVILIANS, EVEN THOUGH THE CIRCUMSTANCES DIFFER, THERE IS EVERY REASON TO DEMAND FIRM COUNTERACTION."

4. (U) IN ITS POPULAR "KLIPPT OG SKORID" COLUMN JULY 6, LEFTIST THJODVILJINN IS CRITICAL OF THE FACT THAT THE U.S. SEEMS TO BE GETTING AWAY WITH CALLING THE INCIDENT

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"A TRAGIC MISTAKE" AND EXPRESSES FEARS THAT IT COULD SET OFF A ROUND OF REVENGE AND INCREASING VIOLENCE BETWEEN IRAN AND THE U.S.

5. (U) ALTHYDUBLADID REPORTED ON JULY 6 THAT THE ICELANDIC AMBASSADOR HAD EXPRESSED THE NATION'S SYMPATHY TO THE IRANIAN AMBASSADOR IN STOCKHOLM. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THIS PAPER, ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER HALLDOR ASGRIMSSON SAID THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE OTHER NORDIC COUNTRIES ABOUT THIS INCIDENT, BUT THAT NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE ABOUT A STATEMENT OR MESSAGE TO THE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES.

6. (c) ON JULY 4, MFA ACTING PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY HELGI AGUSTSSON TOLD THE DCM THAT HIS GOVERNMENT REGRETTED THIS INCIDENT BUT UNDERSTOOD THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH LED TO THE TRAGEDY. DCM PROVIDED AGUSTSSON WITH A COPY OF THE PRESIDENT'S AND ADMIRAL CROWE'S STATEMENTS (REFTEL) ON THIS SUBJECT.

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DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO GULF WAR COLLECTIVE

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PO, PREL, MOPS, IR, US
SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE REACTION TO DOWNING OF
- IRANIAN AIRBUS

REFS: A) FBIS LD0507213988 B) LISBON 6143

SUMMARY

1. (c) THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT (GOP) EXPRESSED ITS "PROFOUND REGRET" OVER THE DOWNING OF THE IRANIAN AIRBUS AND "REITERATED THE WISH THAT PEACE BE RESTORED IN THAT AFFLICTED REGION" (REFTEL A). MEDIA COVERAGE HAS BEEN EXTENSIVE AND GENERALLY STRAIGHTFORWARD, WITH MAJOR EMPHASIS ON PRESIDENT REAGAN'S CHARACTERIZATION OF THE INCIDENT AS A "TRAGIC ERROR". THE GENERAL PUBLIC HAS REACTED WITH SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING. TYPIFYING THIS ATTITUDE

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WAS THE COMMENT OF PRESIDENT SOARES' SON, A PROMINENT SOCIALIST POLITICIAN, ON NATIONAL TELEVISION THAT "SUCH AN ERROR, ALTHOUGH TRAGIC AND REGRETTABLE, IS UNDERSTANDABLE DUE TO THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH IT OCCURRED." THAT SAID, THERE IS BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC PUZZLEMENT OVER THE TECHNICAL INABILITY TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN AN F-14 AND AN AIRBUS, AND THE COMMUNIST DAILY HAS PREDICTABLY CRITICIZED THE DOWNING AS A PREMEDITATED ACT.

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EDITORIAL OPINION (REFTEL B) AND PRIVATE REMARKS, THE PORTUGUESE APPEAR MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS THIS INCIDENT MIGHT HAVE FOR INCREASED INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND GREATER RISK TO NAVIGATION IN THE GULF THAN WITH THE WIDER IMPLICATIONS FOR THE U.S. END SUMMARY.

2. ~~(LSH)~~ THE GOP ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE JULY 5 THROUGH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S (MFA) PRESS OFFICE WHICH EXPRESSES "PROFOUND REGRET OVER THE SHOOTING DOWN OF THE IRANIAN COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT OVER THE GULF" AND CONCLUDES "THAT SUCH AN OCCURRENCE WAS ONLY POSSIBLE DUE TO THE CONTINUING WAR SITUATION IN THE REGION." THE GOP ALSO REITERATED ITS "WISH" THAT "PEACE MAY BE RESTORED IN THAT AFFLICTED REGION."

3. ~~(C)~~ PROMINENT POLITICAL AND MILITARY LEADERS ATTENDING THE AMBASSADOR'S 4TH OF JULY RECEPTION WERE ALMOST UNIFORMLY UNDERSTANDING OF THE U.S. POSITION. ONE FOREIGN MINISTRY (MFA) OFFICIAL COMMENTED THAT PORTUGAL DOES NOT WANT TO EMBARRASS A FRIEND. MANY OTHERS WERE UNCRITICAL AND SYMPATHETICALLY CURIOUS ABOUT THE PRECISE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE INCIDENT. SOME MILITARY OFFICIALS WERE VERY

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SYMPATHETIC ABOUT THE DIFFICULT SITUATION THE "VINCENNES" HAD FOUND ITSELF IN AND THE UNDERSTANDABLE WAY IT HAD REACTED TO DEFEND ITSELF.

4. (U) THE MEDIA HAVE PROMINENTLY REPORTED THE VERBATIM TEXTS OF PRESIDENT REAGAN'S AND ADMIRAL CROWE'S STATEMENTS. HOWEVER, THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN EXCERPTS FROM THE "N.Y. TIMES", "WASHINGTON POST", AND CBS TELEVISION SKEPTICAL OF OUR OFFICIAL EXPLANATIONS. EDITORIAL COMPARISONS HAVE BEEN MADE BETWEEN THE DOWNING OF THE IRANIAN AIRBUS AND THE SOVIET UNION'S SHOOT-DOWN OF THE KAL FLIGHT FIVE YEARS AGO. WHILE DRAWING A PARALLEL BETWEEN THE CIVILIAN TRAGEDY OF THE TWO INCIDENTS, MOST COMMENTARIES HAVE UNDERLINED THE VERY DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE TWO EVENTS, EMPHASIZING THAT THE AIRBUS WAS IN A WAR ZONE OF EXTREMELY HIGH TENSION. ONE GUEST PORTUGUESE ANALYST ON NATIONAL TELEVISION, FOR EXAMPLE, COMMENTED THAT IT IS "HARD TO UNDERSTAND HOW A SOPHISTICATED WAR VESSEL COULD MAKE A MISTAKE BETWEEN A SMALL F-14 AND ONE OF THE WORLD'S BIGGEST COMMERCIAL AIRLINERS." THIS SPOT WAS FOLLOWED BY ARCHIVE FOOTAGE OF THE KAL SHOOT-DOWN.

5. ~~(e)~~ BALANCED AGAINST THIS PUZZLEMENT OVER U.S. TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES WERE NUMEROUS EXPRESSIONS OF

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UNDERSTANDING. ON THE SAME PROGRAM, PRESIDENT
SOARES' SON, JOAO, WHO HAS AN INDEPENDENT POLITICAL
AND PUBLIC STATUS AND WHO ALSO SHARES PART OF HIS
FATHER'S AURA OF CELEBRITY, UNDERLINED THE WIDESPREAD
PORTUGUESE UNDERSTANDING OF THE U.S. ACTION. HE
ECHOED THE MFA COMMUNIQUE, NOTING THAT "ALTHOUGH
TRAGIC AND REGRETTABLE, (IT) IS UNDERSTANDABLE DUE TO

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INFO EC COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 LISBON 06189

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO GULF WAR COLLECTIVE

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PO, PREL, MOPS, IR, US
SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE REACTION TO DOWNING OF

THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH IT OCCURRED."

COMMENT

6. ~~(c)~~ THE OFFICIAL GOP STATEMENT IS CONSISTENT
WITH PUBLIC OPINION AS WELL AS WITH STATEMENTS FROM
OTHER EEC AND NATO MEMBERS. THE CALL FOR RESTORATION
OF PEACE TO THE GULF REGION REFLECTS A PERSISTENT
PORTUGUESE PRE-OCCUPATION WITH THE POSSIBILITY THAT
EVENTS LIKE THIS INCIDENT COULD LEAD TO AN ESCALATION
OF TENSIONS. ALTHOUGH NOT IN THE FOREFRONT, PORTUGAL
CLEARLY IDENTIFIES ITSELF WITH COLLECTIVE EEC AND
NATO PHILOSOPHY, INCLUDING A SYMPATHETIC
UNDERSTANDING OF U.S. ACTIONS.

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NATO COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
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AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LISBON 06143

DEPARTMENT FOR S/PRS, EUR;
USIA FOR P/M, P/G, EU (ASQUINO)E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: SCUL, IR, ZP, PO
SUBJECT: IRAN AIR INCIDENT: PORTUGUESE
. MEDIA COVERAGE1. (U) SUMMARY: SINCE JULY 3, THE AIRBUS DESTRUCTION
HAS REMAINED THE LEAD ITEM IN ALL PORTUGUESE MEDIA.
COVERAGE, OVERALL, IS STRAIGHTFORWARD RECOUNTING OF
INCIDENT DETAILS. COMMENTARIES, MOSTLY BY NATIONAL
TELEVISION STATION, CHARACTERIZE THE ACCIDENT AS A
"TERRIBLE TRAGEDY" DUE TO AN IDENTIFICATION ERROR.
TWO NEWSPAPER EDITORIALS HAVE APPEARED, ONE CALLING
THE INCIDENT A "TRAGIC ERROR" AND THE OTHER "AN
EXPECTED CATASTROPHE... (WHERE) THE NORTH AMERICAN
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FLEET PROVED ITSELF A REAL THREAT TO THE COMMERCIAL
AIRCRAFT." END SUMMARY.2. (U) FOR THE MOST PART COVERAGE IS STRAIGHTFORWARD,
GIVING CHRONOLOGICAL DETAILS AS DESCRIBED BY U.S.
NAVAL AUTHORITIES, IRANIAN CHARGES AGAINST THE U.S.
AND DEMANDS FOR AN EMERGENCY UN SECURITY COUNCIL
MEETING AND WORLDWIDE REACTIONS TO THE ACCIDENT. TONE
OF COMMENTARIES, MOSTLY CARRIED BY THE NATIONAL

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TELEVISION STATION, CHARACTERIZE THE ACCIDENT AS A "TERRIBLE TRAGEDY" DUE TO AN IDENTIFICATION ERROR. THERE WERE ALLUSIONS TO A POSSIBLE PARALLEL WITH THE KAL SHOOT-DOWN, BUT PRESS ACCOUNTS GENERALLY CONCLUDED THAT THE CONTEXT AND NATURE OF THE TWO INCIDENTS WERE CONSIDERABLY DIFFERENT. LOCAL RADIO STATIONS JULY 5 REPORTED THE ITALIAN CONFIRMATION OF U.S. DETAILS OF THE ACCIDENT.

3. (U) TO DATE, ONLY TWO NEWSPAPER EDITORIALS HAVE APPEARED: THE FIRST ON JULY 5 IN "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS," LISBON'S LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY AND THEN ON JULY 6 IN "O DIARIO," THE QUASI-OFFICIAL COMMUNIST PARTY VOICE.

4. (U) HEADLINED "TRAGIC ERROR" THE "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" EDITORIAL SUPPORTS U.S. PRESENCE IN THE GULF WHICH "HAS ALLOWED THE FLOW OF OIL TO THE WESTERN WORLD TO CONTINUE AND HAS HELPED THE ECONOMIES OF THE MODERATE ARAB STATES TO REMAIN IMMUNE TO IRANIAN BLOCKADES", BUT OPINES THAT "WHATEVER THE REASONS NOTHING CAN JUSTIFY THE ACT AGAINST THE IRANIAN AIRBUS".

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5. (U) CONCERNING THE PARALLEL BETWEEN THE KAL SHOOT-DOWN AND THE AIRBUS ACCIDENT THE "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" CONTINUES:

"IRONICALLY THE MOST OUTSPOKEN CRITICS (OF THE KAL SHOOT-DOWN) ARE TODAY THE DEFENDANTS IN THE 'TRAGIC ERROR' NOW COMMITTED. ALTHOUGH THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING BOTH ACCIDENTS ARE NOT COMPARABLE EXCEPT FOR THEIR TRAGIC RESULTS, THERE REMAIN DOUBTS FOR WHICH ANSWERS MUST BE GIVEN."

"IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF--TO EXPLAIN THE EVENT--IT IS REASONABLE TO ACCEPT AS VALID THE ARGUMENT OF THE ALLEGED CONFUSION ESTABLISHED BETWEEN AN F-14 AND SUCH AN AIRCRAFT OF THE SIZE OF THE ONE JUST DESTROYED.... WE HOPE THUS, THAT THE ENQUIRY REQUESTED BY PRESIDENT REAGAN...CLARIFIES THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THE BLOODSHED TOOK PLACE."

"ONLY THEN WILL IT BE POSSIBLE TO UNDERSTAND IF THE WAR SITUATION IN THE REGION WAS A REASONABLE CAUSE OR JUST THE NEAREST EXCUSE FOR AN INEXCUSABLE ERROR...."

6. (U) "O DIARIO" HEADLINED THE GULF INCIDENT AS "THE 'TRAGIC MISTAKE' OF THE ELECTRONIC CRUISER." IT STATED THAT A "CATASTROPHE LIKE THE ONE THAT TOOK 290 VICTIMS...WAS TO BE EXPECTED; THE SURPRISE IS THAT IT

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HAS NOT HAPPENED EARLIER, IN ONE FASHION OR
ANOTHER...."

"THE TRAGEDY DEMONSTRATES THE FALSEHOOD OF THE
'SECURITY' THE PENTAGON PROVIDES THE GULF...IN THE

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DEPARTMENT FOR S/PRS, EUR;
USIA FOR P/M, P/G, EU (ASQUINO)

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS:SCUL, IR, ZP, PO
SUBJECT: IRAN AIR INCIDENT: PORTUGUESE

FORM OF DOZENS OF WARSHIPS ENDOWED WITH THE MOST
SOPHISTICATED MILITARY TECHNOLOGY.... INSTEAD OF
PROTECTING THE 'FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION' IN THE WAR ZONE
BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ, THE NORTH AMERICAN FLEET PROVED
ITSELF A REAL THREAT TO THE COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT."

"THE PRIMARY CAUSES OF THE TRAGEDY ARE THE HEAVY
MILITARY PRESENCE OF AMERICANS AND OTHER NATO
COUNTRIES IN THE GULF'S WAR ZONE AND THE ABSENCE OF
GENUINE EFFORTS ON WASHINGTON'S PART TO END THE
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IRAN-IRAQ CONFLICT."

"...THE PRETEXT OF ASSURING 'FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION'
CONTINUES TO BE USED TO DEPLOY POWERFUL WEAPONRY TO A
WAR ZONE. IT IS DIFFICULT TO PROVE THE COMPATIBILITY
OF THIS PRACTICE WITH AN ALLEGED DESIRE FOR PEACE....

"THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION'S RECENT STRESS ON
NEGOTIATIONS DOES NOT HIDE WASHINGTON'S MILITARISTIC

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AND AGRESSIVE TENDENCY. THE MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX IS A REALITY THAT IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH A SUSTAINED POLICY OF PEACE. ITS NATURE, CHARACTERIZED BY AN INTERVENTIONIST AND HAIR-TRIGGER POLICY, WAS, ONCE MORE, TRAGICALLY DEMONSTRATED LAST SUNDAY".

7. (U) BY JULY 5, MAJOR MEDIA COVERAGE, ESPECIALLY TELEVISION, FOCUSSED ON IRANIAN CALL FOR UN SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING, PRESIDENT REAGAN'S APOLOGIES TO TEHERAN, SUPPORT OF U.S. NAVY ACTIONS BY DUKAKIS AND BUSH, IRANIAN THREATS TO RETALIATE AND INCREASED SECURITY MEASURE AT U.S. EMBASSIES. ON TELEVISION, "TELEJORNAL" COMMENTED THAT "THE WHITE HOUSE ARGUMENT LOSES CREDIBILITY IF AVIATION EXPERTS ARE CORRECT AND THAT

THE AIRCRAFT WAS GAINING AND NOT LOSING ALTITUDE." "24 HORAS" AND "JORNAL DAS NOVE" NOTED THE U.S. ENQUIRY COMMISSION'S ARRIVAL IN BAHRAIN AND INCREASED SECURITY MEASURES AT U.S. EMBASSIES. THE LATTER NEWSREPORT INCLUDED FOOTAGE COMPARING LISBON'S SECURITY MEASURES ON JULY 5 WITH THOSE OF PARIS ON JULY 4.

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E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF MORNING V NEWSCASTS, WEDNESDAY, 7/6

A. ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT

1. PERSIAN GULF - THE WHITE HOUSE HAS DISCLOSED THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN SENT A NOTE OF REGRET TO IRAN SUNDAY AFTER A U.S. WARSHIP SHOT DOWN AN IRANIAN AIRBUS KILLING 290 PEOPLE. YESTERDAY'S SPOKESMAN SAID THE MESSAGE SOUGHT TO ASSURE TEHERAN THE ATTACK WAS AN ACCIDENT. MR. REAGAN SAID HE CONSIDERED THE NOTE AN APOLOGY AND THAT REPARATION FOR THE FAMILIES OF VICTIMS IS BEING DISCUSSED.

IN TEHERAN, THE HEAD OF IRAN'S MILITARY HAS SOUNDED A NOTE OF CAUTION. SPEAKING IN THE IRANIAN PARLIAMENT YESTERDAY, RAFSANJANI SUGGESTED IRAN SHOULD NOT RETALIATE IMMEDIATELY BECAUSE IT WOULD TAKE INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE OFF THE U.S. RANSANJANI SAID HIS COUNTRY WOULD SEEK REVENGE AT A TIME OF ITS CHOOSING.

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DESPITE THE LONG CHILL IN U.S. RELATIONS WITH IRAN, THERE IS WORD THAT TEHERAN HAD MADE OVERTURES TO WASHINGTON BEFORE AN IRAN AIR JET WAS SHOT DOWN ON SUNDAY. THE NEW

YORK TIMES SAYS SECRETARY OF STATE SHULTZ HAS REVEALED THAT IRAN APPROACHED THE U.S. TWO MONTHS AGO ABOUT OPENING UP A DIALOGUE. SHULTZ SAID THE U.S. HAD RESPONDED IN A POSITIVE WAY. (HILARY BOWKER)

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2. MEXICAN ELECTIONS - VOTERS WILL BE CASTING BALLOTS TODAY IN PRESIDENTIAL AND LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS IN MEXICO. THE RULING PARTY CANDIDATE CARLOS SALINES IS EXPECTED TO WIN BUT HE FACES UNUSUALLY STIFF CHALLENGES FROM BOTH THE LEFT AND THE RIGHT. (HILARY BOWKER)

B. NBC TODAY SHOW

1. PERSIAN GULF - THERE ARE NEW REPORTS THIS MORNING THAT MILITARY OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD LAWMAKERS ON CAPITOL HILL THAT THE IRANIAN AIRLINER MAY HAVE BEEN INSIDE THE CIVILIAN AIR CORRIDOR, NOT OUTSIDE AS ORIGINALLY RECORDED, AND THAT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN AN IRANIAN MILITARY PLANE SOMEWHERE IN THE AREA AT THE TIME THE CIVILIAN PLANE WAS SHOT DOWN. BUT FOR NOW THE PENTAGON IS STICKING TO ITS PUBLIC REPORTS INCLUDING ONE THAT THE CIVILIAN AIRLINER WAS TRANSMITTING TWO I.D. SIGNALS, ONE OF THEM MILITARY. THE PENTAGON SAY THE IRANIAN PLANE WAS TRANSMITTING A MODE THREE CODE USED BY BOTH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT. BUT OFFICIALS SAY THE PLANE ALSO TRANSMITTED A MODE TWO CODE RESERVED FOR MILITARY AIRCRAFT ONLY. THAT CODE IS NORMALLY SECRET. PENTAGON SOURCES SAY THE NAVY HAD INTERCEPTED THE SAME CODE FROM AN IRANIAN F-14 AT AN EARLIER DATE, LEAVING THE COMMANDER

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ABOARD THE USS VINCENNES TO BELIEVE THE CIVILIAN PLANE WAS AN F-14 JET FIGHTER.

THE PENTAGON SAYS, WITH NO OTHER POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION AND LITTLE TIME TO REACT, THE CAPTAIN OF THE VINCENNES WAS FORCED TO SHOOT DOWN THE PLANE. STILL, OTHER QUESTIONS REMAIN ABOUT THE SHIP'S INABILITY TO IDENTIFY THE PLANE AND CONFLICTING REPORTS AS TO ITS ALTITUDE AND COURSE AT THE TIME IT WAS SHOT DOWN. (JIM MIKLASZEWSKI, PENTAGON)

2. INTERVIEW WITH BRIG. GEN. ROLAND LA JOIE, ON-SITE INSPECTION AGENCY: SAID HIS FIRST TRIP TO THE SOVIET UNION WENT VERY WELL. THE SOVIETS WERE UNCOMMONLY FLEXIBLE, AND THEY COULD NOT HAVE DONE MORE TO MAKE THIS INSPECTION WORK. OUR TEAMS WILL MAKE 133 INSPECTIONS IN 60 DAYS AND THEY WILL AVERAGE TWO PER DAY. THEY WILL BE INSPECTING SOVIET MISSILE OPERATION BASES, THEIR STORAGE FACILITIES, REPAIR FACILITIES INCLUDING A SINGLE

PRODUCTION FACILITY AS WELL. THE NEXT PHASE WILL TAKE LONGER. THE SOVIETS HAVE ALMOST 6,000 ITEMS WHICH THEY WILL HAVE TO DESTROY... THEY WILL START ON OR ABOUT THE FIRST OF AUGUST AND CONTINUE IN AN UNINTERRUPTED FASHION FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS TO DESTROY VIRTUALLY AROUND-THE-CLOCK ALL OF THESE ITEMS.

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C. CBS THIS MORNING

1. DOWNING OF IRANIAN AIR BUS - U.S. NAVY EXPERTS BELIEVE THAT WHEN THE AMERICAN WARSHIP VINCENNES MISTOOK AN IRANIAN JETLINER FOR AN F-14 FIGHTER, IT MAY HAVE BEEN PICKING UP A DISTANT MILITARY IDENTIFICATION SIGNAL FROM ANOTHER PLANE. ACCORDING TO THE NEW YORK TIMES, NAVY BRIEFERS TOLD CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS THAT THE SHIP'S CREW OR EQUIPMENT MAY HAVE WRONGLY CONCLUDED THAT THE MILITARY UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

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SIGNAL WAS COMING FROM THE PASSENGER JET. (FAITH DANIELS)

THE PENTAGON SAYS THAT WHEN THE VINCENNES PICKED UP THE IRAN AIRPLANE ON ITS RADAR, THE AIRCRAFT WAS SENDING OUT TWO DIFFERENT SETS OF ELECTRONIC SIGNALS TO IDENTIFY ITSELF, ONE USED BY BOTH COMMERCIAL AND MILITARY AIRCRAFT, THE SECOND USED ONLY BY MILITARY AIRCRAFT. WHY A COMMERCIAL AIRLINER WOULD IDENTIFY ITSELF AS A MILITARY PLANE IS NOT KNOWN, BUT THE PENTAGON SAYS IT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN BY MISTAKE. "IT IS A SPECIAL PIECE OF EQUIPMENT WHICH HAS TO BE PUT ON THE AIRCRAFT AND IT CAN ONLY BE SET ON THE GROUND," SAID PENTAGON SPOKESMAN DAN HOWARD.

HOWEVER, ANOTHER U.S. NAVY SHIP IN THE AREA DID NOT PICK UP THAT SIGNAL. THE RADAR SHOWED THE IRANIAN AIRCRAFT TO BE AT AN ALTITUDE OF 12,600 FEET, HIGHER, AND THEREFORE LESS THREATENING, THAN THE 7,800 ALTITUDE SHOWN BY THE RADAR ON THE VINCENNES. FOR THE MOMENT, AT LEAST, THE PENTAGON IS UNABLE TO EXPLAIN THE DISCREPANCY. "I'M SAYING THAT WE HAVE SOME INEXPLICABLE EVIDENCE AT THIS POINT," SAID HOWARD.

THE VINCENNES CARRIES THE MOST SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT. IF ITS DATA IS ACCURATE, THE PLANE WAS OUTSIDE THE NORMAL AIR CORRIDOR AND HEADED STRAIGHT FOR THE SHIP, TRAVELING AT 450 KNOTS, LOSING ALTITUDE, AND NOT RESPONDING TO REPEATED WARNINGS.

SOME OF THE CONFLICTING DATA COULD BE EXPLAINED BY THE WEATHER, WHICH IN THE PERSIAN GULF IS NOTORIOUS FOR PLAYING TRICKS ON ELECTRONICS. (DAVID MARTIN)

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2. IRAN PROPOSAL - SECRETARY OF SHULTZ SAYS THAT TWO MONTHS AGO, IRANIAN OFFICIALS PASSED WORD TO A THIRD

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PARTY THAT THEY WANTED TO OPEN A DIRECT DIALOGUE WITH THE UNITED STATES. THE UNITED STATES RESPONDED POSITIVELY, BUT HAS HEARD NOTHING FURTHER ABOUT THE PROPOSAL, AND SHULTZ SAYS HE DOESN'T WANT TO SPECULATE ON WHAT THE SHOOTING DOWN OF THE IRANIAN JET MIGHT DO TO THE IRANIAN OVERTURE. (FAITH DANIELS)

3. TERRORIST TRIAL IN PAKISTAN - A PAKISTANI JUDGE HAS SENTENCED FIVE PALESTINIANS TO DEATH FOR HIJACKING A U.S. PLANE IN 1986. THE ARABS TOOK OVER THE PAN AM JUMBO-JET WITH 390 PEOPLE ABOARD DURING A STOPOVER IN PAKISTAN. THERE WAS A 16 HOUR STANDOFF ON THE GROUND AT KARACHI AIRPORT. PAKISTANI COMMANDOS THEN STORMED THE PLANE. 21 PEOPLE DIED IN THE RAID. (FAITH DANIELS)

4. INTERVIEW WITH HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER THOMAS FOLEY BY KATHLEEN SULLIVAN ON DOWNING OF AIRPLANE - FOLEY SAID THAT AT A BRIEFING YESTERDAY, CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS WERE INFORMED THERE WERE TWO DIFFERENT RADAR MODES RESPONDING ON THE AIRCRAFT. HE SAID THAT IT IS TECHNICALLY POSSIBLE THAT THERE COULD HAVE BEEN CONFUSION WITH ANOTHER MILITARY AIRPLANE IN THE VICINITY, BUT HE DOES NOT THINK THE PENTAGON SEES THIS AS A HIGH DEGREE OF PROBABILITY. HE SAID THAT HE THINKS THE CAPTAIN WAS UNDER EXTRAORDINARY PRESSURE, AND HE HAS NO CRITICISM OF WHAT HE DID. HE SAID THAT COMPENSATION OF VICTIMS' FAMILIES IS BEING DISCUSSED, HOW WE WOULD DO THAT, AND HOW WE WOULD INSURE THAT THE FAMILIES RECEIVED THE COMPENSATION, AND SAID THAT HE IS SURE THAT WHATEVER DECISION IS MADE BY THE PRESIDENT AND BY THE UNITED STATES WOULD HAVE TO BE NEGOTIATED WITH IRAN, AND, OF COURSE, THERE ARE STILL VERY GREAT OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS IN OUR RELATIONS, INCLUDING THE INFLUENCE IRAN HAS HELD OVER THOSE WHO ARE HOLDING THE HOSTAGES. HE SAID HE HAS HAD CRITICISMS OF
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U.S. POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST AS NOT BEING FOCUSED, BUT HE THINKS IT WOULD BE A GREAT MISTAKE AT THIS TIME, HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THIS INCIDENT TO WITHDRAW U.S. PRESENCE FROM THE GULF. WE SHOULD DO THAT WHEN OUR OBJECTIVES HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED OR WHEN WE BELIEVE THAT THOSE OBJECTIVES SHOULD BE MODIFIED AND POLICY SHOULD BE CHANGED INDEPENDENTLY.

5. ABC FILES PROTEST - ABC NEWS HAS FILED A PROTEST WITH THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT. THE NETWORK SAYS ISRAELI SECURITY AGENTS POSED AS AN ABC NEWS CREW AS A WAY TO GET

TO, AND ARREST, A PALESTINIAN PROTESTER IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. ISRAELI MILITARY SOURCES SAY THEY KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THE INCIDENT. (FAITH DANIELS)

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6. PROTEST IN ARMENIA - THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT SAYS 36 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN INJURED IN VIOLENT PROTEST IN ARMENIA. AN UNOFFICIAL REPORT SAYS ONE PERSON WAS KILLED WHEN SOLDIERS OPENED FIRE AT THE AIRPORT IN THE ARMENIAN CAPITAL. THE AIRPORT HAD BEEN TAKEN OVER AND SHUT DOWN BY STRIKERS. THEY ARE DEMANDING THAT ARMENIA BE GIVEN CONTROL OF A NEIGHBORING REGION POPULATED MOSTLY BY ARMENIANS. WHITEHEAD

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 09356

FOR DEPT PLEASE PASS TO GULF WAR COLLECTIVE

FROM USEC

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: MOPS PREL UNSC EEC US XF
SUBJECT: IRAN AIRBUS TRAGEDY:
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

..
1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT PASSED A
RESOLUTION JULY 7 WHICH REGRETS THE SHOOTING DOWN OF
THE IRANIAN AIRBUS, NOTES THE U.S. INQUIRY, URGES IRAN
AND IRAQ TO CEASE ATTACKS ON GULF SHIPPING, CALLS
FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION
598, AND URGES EC MEMBER STATES TO TAKE INITIATIVES
TOWARD BRINGING AN END TO THE GULF WAR. FULL TEXT
OF RESOLUTION IS IN PARA 3 BELOW. END SUMMARY.

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2. THE COMPROMISE RESOLUTION WAS AGREED TO BY THE MAJOR
POLITICAL GROUPS FROM THE CONSERVATIVES TO THE
COMMUNISTS. SEVERAL MEMBERS FROM THE CENTER RIGHT SAID
THAT THEY WOULD VOTE FOR THE COMPROMISE TEXT, BUT THEY
WANTED TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF NOT CONDEMNING THE
U.S. OVER THIS TRAGIC ACCIDENT. THEY EMPHASIZED THAT
THERE COULD BE NO COMPARISON BETWEEN THIS INCIDENT AND
THE SHOOTING DOWN OF THE KAL FLIGHT A FEW YEARS AGO

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AS A FEW MEMBERS ON THE FAR LEFT HAD SUGGESTED. SEVERAL MEMBERS NOTED THE VITAL ROLE PLAYED BY U.S. NAVAL SHIPS IN THE GULF. THE RESOLUTION PASSED ON A VOTE OF 138 TO 15 WITH 6 ABSTENTIONS.

..

TEXT OF RESOLUTION

3. BEGIN TEXT:

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT,

PROFOUNDLY SHOCKED AT THE SHOOTING DOWN OF A CIVIL AIRLINER IN THE GULF WITH A TRAGIC LOSS OF NEARLY 300 LIVES;

B. RECALLING ITS PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING THE IRAN/IRAQ WAR, NOW IN ITS EIGHTH YEAR;

C. WHEREAS THE IRANIAN AIRCRAFT WAS ON A REGULAR SCHEDULED FLIGHT BETWEEN IRANIAN TERRITORY AND DUBAI,

D. DEEPLY CONSCIOUS OF THE INCREASE IN TENSION,
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THE THREAT TO OTHER INNOCENT LIVES AND POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER ESCALATION AS THE RESULT OF ATTEMPTS TO CARRY OUT ACTS OF VENGEANCE;

E. DEPLORING THE REFUSAL OF IRAN AND IRAQ TO COMPLY WITH UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 598,

F. REGRETTING THE EQUIVOCATION WHICH HAS PREVENTED AN EMBARGO ON THE SALE OF ARMS TO THE TWO PARTIES FROM BEING IMPOSED,

..
(1) STRONGLY REGRETS THE SHOOTING DO AIRBUS AND EXPRESSES ITS SYMPATHY TO T OF THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

(2) NOTES THAT AN OFFICIAL INQUIRY IS TO BE CARRIED OUT BY THE U.S. DEFENSE DEPARTMENT AND URGES THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO PUBLISH THE RESULTS OF THEIR INQUIRY INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISASTER AND INDICATE WHAT, IF ANY, STEPS (ARE) TO BE TAKEN TO PREVENT A RECURRENCE;

(3) DEMANDS THAT THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION (ICAO) BE REQUESTED TO INQUIRE INTO ALL CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE INCIDENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES SET OUT BY THE ICAO AND SUPPORTS

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THE PROPOSALS THAT THE ICAO SHOULD HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO ADOPT NEW RULES TO PROTECT THE SAFETY OF CIVIL AIRCRAFT;

(4) CALLS UPON THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO ACCEPT, SUBJECT TO THE RESULT OF THE INQUIRY, ALL LEGAL OBLIGATIONS FOR COMPENSATION IN FULL;

(5) URGES THE IRANIAN AND IRAQI AUTHORITIES

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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 09356

FOR DEPT PLEASE PASS TO GULF WAR COLLECTIVE

FROM USEC

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: MOPS PREL UNSC EEC US XF

SUBJECT: IRAN AIRBUS TRAGEDY:

IMMEDIATELY TO DECLARE THEIR INTENTION TO CEASE ALL
ATTACKS ON SHIPPING USING THE GULF AS A PRELUDE TO A
GENERAL CEASE FIRE, WHICH WOULD ALSO MAKE THE CONTINUATION
OF NAVAL PATROLS UNNECESSARY:

(6) POINTS OUT THAT THE GULF REMAINS ONE OF THE MOST
DANGEROUS WATERWAYS IN THE WORLD AND CALLS ALL CONCERNED
PARTIES TO IMPLEMENT UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 598,
WHICH REPRESENTS A FAIR BASIS FOR ENDING THE WAR AND
REESTABLISHING PEACE IN THE REGION, AND REPEATS ITS
CALL UPON ALL MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY
TO RESTRAIN FROM ANY ACTS LIABLE TO INCREASE TENSION
IN THE AREA;

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(7) APPEALS TO THE EEC MEMBER STATES TO TAKE AN
INITIATIVE IN THE STEPS TO INITIATE NEW MOVES
DESIGNED TO BRING THE GULF WAR TO AN END AND TO
SECURE THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN
WAR SHIPS,

..

(8) RECALLS THAT A NUMBER OF HOSTAGES CONTINUE TO BE
HELD IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND URGES
THAT THEY BE SET FREE IMMEDIATELY

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88BRUSSE009356

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(9) INSTRUCTS ITS PRESIDENT TO FORWARD THIS RESOLUTION
TO THE COUNCIL, THE COMMISSION, THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE
USA, IRAN AND IRAQ AND TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE
UN.

END TEXT.
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FOLLOWING KUALA LUMPUR 5696 DTD 06 JUL SENT ACTION SECSTATE
INFO BANGKOK BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN JAKARTA MANILA SINGAPORE
GULFWAR COLLECTIVE BEING REPEATED FOR UR INFO:

QUOTE: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ KUALA LUMPUR 05696

S/S-O REPEAT TO SECRETARY'S PARTY

DEPT PLS PASS GULF WAR COLLECTIVE

E.O.12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, MOPS, MY, IR, US

SUBJECT: MALAYSIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT ON
IRANIAN JET SHOOTDOWN

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 05688

1. (U) THE MFA ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON JULY
5TH. BEGIN TEXT.

"THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT DEPLORES THE SHOOTING DOWN
OF AN IRANIAN AIRLINER BY U.S. NAVAL FORCES IN THE
GULF WHICH RESULTED IN THE DEATHS OF SO MANY INNOCENT

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PASSENGERS AND THE CREW. IT IS DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE
OR ACCEPT THAT, GIVEN THE SOPHISTICATION OF U.S.
COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF
TRAINING OF THOSE WHO MANNED THEM, THE U.S. FORCES
COULD HAVE COMMITTED THE GRAVE ERROR, AS CLAIMED, OF
MISTAKING A LARGE CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT FOR A MILITARY ONE.

"THIS UNMITIGATED DISASTER HAS CAUSED CONSTERNATION
AND DEEP ANGUISH, AND IT IS EARNESTLY HOPED THAT

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88STATE 215937

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EVERYTHING WILL BE DONE TO AVOID A REPEAT OF THIS TRAGIC INCIDENT.

"THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT EXTENDS ITS DEEPEST CONDOLENCES AND PROFOUND SYMPATHY TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF IRAN AND TO MEMBERS OF THE BEREAVED FAMILIES OVER THE LOSS OF THEIR BELOVED ONES." END TEXT.

2. (U) PRESS ACCOUNTS OF THE STATEMENT VARIED. THE MALAY-LANGUAGE UTUSAN MALAYSIA ERRONEOUSLY TRANSLATED THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE MFA STATEMENT, SUBSTITUTING "INTENTIONAL DISASTER" FOR "UNMITIGATED DISASTER." THE NEW STRAITS TIMES SUBSTITUTED "UNPROVOKED DISASTER." ONLY THE STAR WAS COMPLETELY ACCURATE IN ITS REPORT.

3. (C) ON THE MORNING OF JULY 6, THE AMBASSADOR CONTACTED MFA ACTING SECRETARY GENERAL ABDUL MAJID MOHAMED TO SEEK CLARIFICATION OF THE MFA STATEMENT. MAJID SAID THAT THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT HAD COME DIRECTLY FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE. MAJID OBSERVED THAT SEVERAL LOCAL PAPERS HAD CARRIED IMPRECISE TRANSLATIONS, BUT THAT THE OFFICIAL

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STATEMENT STOPPED SHORT OF CALLING THE ATTACK INTENTIONAL, USING INSTEAD WORDING THAT "LEFT SOME ROOM FOR DOUBT." DRAWING ON PRESIDENT REAGAN'S AND ADMIRAL CROWE'S STATEMENTS, THE AMBASSADOR MADE CLEAR OUR POSITION, EXPRESSING SURPRISE AND CONCERN OVER GOM REACTION. THE EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW CLOSELY GOM AND MEDIA REACTION TO THE INCIDENT.
HUBBARD UNQUOTE WHITEHEAD

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88STATE 215245

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FOR EAP ASSISTANT SECRETARY SIGUR ONLY

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HONOLULU HI //USIA ADVISOR// USNATO INFO COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA
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QUOTE
UNCLAS TOKYO 12170

USIA

FOR: STATE/EAP/J, STATE/PM; TREASURY/IMA; NSC; USIA FOR
P/M, P/R, EA; SECDEF FOR OASD/PA

E.O. 12356: N/A

SUBJECT: USIA - MEDIA REACTION REPORT: JULY 5, 1988

(A) EDITORIALS ON IRANIAN AIRLINER INCIDENT

(B) ALL LEADING TOKYO DAILIES CARRIED EDITORIALS TUESDAY
MORNING ON THE SHOOTING DOWN OF AN IRANIAN AIRLINER BY A
MISSILE-FIRING U.S. WARSHIP. THE EDITORIALS QUESTIONED
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HOW THE MODERN AEGIS CRUISER VINCENNES WAS UNABLE TO
DISTINGUISH BETWEEN A CIVILIAN AIRLINER AND A MILITARY
PLANE, AND EXPRESSED HOPE FOR AN EARLY END TO THE
IRAN-IRAQ WAR. WHILE NO EDITORIAL ACCUSED THE U.S. OF
PRE-MEDITATED HOSTILITIES, THEY DID QUESTION U.S.
EXPLANATIONS OF THE EVENTS THAT OCCURRED. BOTH THE
MODERATE YOMIURI AND THE CONSERVATIVE SANKEI DISMISSED
ANY SIMILARITIES BETWEEN THE IRAN AIR INCIDENT AND THE
KAL INCIDENT OF FOUR YEARS AGO. OVERALL TONE OF THE

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EDITORIALS WAS CRITICAL BUT NOT HYSTERICAL. IN SHORT, THE JAPANESE MEDIA ARE AIRING THE SAME DOUBTS THAT THE U.S. MEDIA ARE.

(C) "TRAGEDY IN THE GULF" (YOMIURI)

"DOWNING OF CIVILIAN AIRLINER SHOCKING" (ASAHI)

"AIRLINER DOWNED IN PERSIAN GULF" (MAINICHI)

"FIRING ERROR SHOULD NOT BLOCK PEACE" (SANKEI)

(D)-1. THE MODERATE YOMIURI NOTED, "THE DESTRUCTION OF AN IRANIAN JETLINER IN THE PERSIAN GULF BY A U.S. CRUISER IS A GREAT TRAGEDY THAT OCCURRED UNDER THE EXTREME CONDITIONS OF WARFARE.....UNFORTUNATELY, IN TH LATEST INCIDENT, A SITUATION THAT COULD INDUCE VERREACTION WAS SUPERIMPOSED ON AN EXISTING STAT OF ALARM.

HOWEVER, THIS INCIDENT BASICALLY DIFERS FROM THE SHOOTING DOWN OF A KOREAN AIR JETLIER OVER THE OKHOTSK SEA FIVE YEARS AGO. ON THAT CCASION, SOVIET INTERCEPTORS CHASED A KAL PLANE HAT SHOWED NO CLEAR INTENTIONS OF ATTACKING, FOR A CONSIDERABLE DISTANCE
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BEFORE FIRING.

"NEVERTHELESS, MANY PERSONS, INCLUDING MILITARY EXPERTS, EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT TE PROPRIETY OF THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE CRUISER. THERE IS A SERIOUS QUESTION AS TO WHY THE SHIP FILED TO IDENTIFY A COMMERIAL AIRCRAFT AS LARGE AS AN AIRBUS.

"THE EXPLNATION GIVEN BY THE U.S. MILITARY IS NOT PERSUASVE ENOUGH TO CALM INTERNATIONAL CONCERN. A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT."

2. TH LIBERAL ASAHI COMMENTED, "THE U.S. SHOOTDOWN OF AN IRANIAN AIRBUS WITH 290 PEOPLE ABOARD WAS A VER TRAGIC AND REGRETTABLE INCIDENT.....ONE WONDER IF A MISTAKE OF THIS SERIOUS NATURE AND CONSEQUENCES COULD EVER BE ALLOWED (EVEN) IN A TENSE, WARING SITUATION LIKE THIS. U.S. MILITARY OFFICIAL SAID IT WAS AN ACT OF SELF-DEFENSE, BUT IT IS TO SERIOUS A MATTER TO BE JUSTIFIED OR PARDONED.

"WHAT WE FEAR ARE ACTS OF REPRISAL BY THE IRANIANS. SUCH ACTS WOULD ONLY LEAD TO AN ESCALATION OF TENSION IN THE PERSIAN GULF AND IN THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR AS A WHOLE. UTMOST CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN TO KEEP SUCH DANGERS TO A MINIMUM."

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3. THE LIBERAL MAINICHI REMARKED, "AN UNBELIEVABLE AND TRAGIC INCIDENT OCCURRED IN THE PERSIAN GULF. THE U.S. CLAIMED IT WAS AN ACT OF SELF-DEFENSE DURING A BATTLE IN THE GULF. WHATEVER REASON, IT WAS TOO SHOCKING AND TRAGIC FOR THE (ORDINARY) PEOPLE OF THE WORLD.

"BOTH U.S. GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY OFFICIALS SHOULD BEGIN A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION INTO THE INCIDENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND COME UP WITH MEASURES TO PREVENT THE RECURRENCE OF SUCH A DISASTER.

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"NOW IS THE TIME TO RECONSIDER THE ROLE AND EFFECT OF THE U.S. NAVAL PRACTICE OF ESCORTING TANKERS IN THE GULF BECAUSE OF THE TOUCH-AND-GO SITUATION. THIS INCIDENT WILL FURTHER BOOST THE MORALE OF THE IRANIAN PEOPLE, WHO HAVE DECLARED JIHAD (HOLY WAR) AGAINST THE U.S."

4. THE CONSERVATIVE SANKEI NOTED, "WE BELIEVE THAT THE SHOOTING DOWN OF THE IRANIAN AIRLINER COMPLETELY DIFFERS FROM THE KAL INCIDENT BECAUSE THE LATEST INCIDENT OCCURRED DURING BELLIGERENT CONDITIONS IN THE PERSIAN GULF....IN VENTURING OUR OWN OPINION, WE HOPE THE U.S. WILL MAKE A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION ON THE CAUSE OF THE INCIDENT AND TO FULLY COMPENSATE THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS IN ORDER TO WIPE AWAY SUSPICION AND DISTRUST.

"WE HOPE THE SHOOTING DOWN OF THE AIRLINER WILL NOT ESCALATE TENSION IN THE PERSIAN GULF. WE HOPE, THAT AS PRIME MINISTER THATCHER SUGGESTED, THE INCIDENT WILL SERVE AS A LEVER FOR RISING INTERNATIONAL OPINION TO URGE AN EARLY END TO THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR, RATHER THAN CRITICIZING THE U.S."

5. NHK-TV COMMENTATOR MOCHIDA SAID, "BECAUSE OF THE INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS, FEW AMERICANS HAVE CRITICIZED THE U.S. DOWNING OF THE IRANIAN AIRLINER.....HOWEVER, DOMESTIC OPINION IN THE U.S. COULD BECOME MORE CRITICAL DEPENDING ON ANY WORSENING OF THE PERSIAN GULF SITUATION."

TBS-TV CORRESPONDENT TAJIKA SAID, "THE SHOOTING DOWN OF THE IRANIAN AIRLINER COULD LEAD TO DOMESTIC CALLS FOR WITHDRAWAL OF THE U.S. FLEET IN THE PERSIAN GULF, THUS

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PUTTING THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION IN A DIFFICULT POSITION.
SHELLENBERGER

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88STATE 215245

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QUOTE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ TOKYO 12113

E.O.12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, MARR, MOPS, PTER, JA, IR, US

SUBJECT: GOJ AND MEDIA REACTION TO IRAN AIRLINER
 INCIDENT

REF: STATE 214700 (NOTAL)

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: THE GOJ HAS EXPRESSED REGRET OVER THE
 LOSS OF LIFE IN THE DOWNING OF THE IRAN AIR JETLINER
 OVER THE PERSIAN GULF, BUT ADVISES THAT IT WILL REFRAIN
 FROM COMMENT ABOUT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INCIDENT.
 MOFA HAS STRESSED TO US THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING

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THE REGIME FOR THE PROTECTION OF CIVIL AVIATION
 ESTABLISHED AFTER THE KAL 007 INCIDENT. THUS FAR
 JAPANESE MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE INCIDENT HAS BEEN
 EXTENSIVE BUT STRAIGHTFORWARD. ATTENTION HAS FOCUSED
 ON THE PROBABLE CAUSE OF THE INCIDENT, INCLUDING THE
 OPERATION OF THE AEGIS SYSTEM WHICH THE GOJ HAS
 CONTRACTED TO PURCHASE FOR ITS OWN VESSELS. WHILE
 OFFICIAL GOJ AND PUBLIC REACTION TO THIS INCIDENT IS
 LIKELY TO BE CONSTRAINED BY AWARENESS OF THE ROLE THE

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U.S. PLAYS ON BEHALF OF THE WEST AND JAPAN IN THE GULF, MOFA BELIEVES THAT A U.S. APOLOGY FOR THE INCIDENT, GOING BEYOND THE STATEMENTS OF REGRET, WOULD PLAY WELL WITH THE JAPANESE PUBLIC. END SUMMARY.

3. NEWLY-APPOINTED MOFA NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU/FIRST NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION DIRECTOR YUKIO OKAMOTO PROVIDED US WITH ADVANCE WORD OF THE OFFICIAL GOJ ANNOUNCEMENT THAT WAS MADE IN TOKYO AT MID-DAY TODAY (JULY 4) ON THE DOWNING OF AN IRANIAN AIRLINER BY U.S. NAVAL FORCES IN THE PERSIAN GULF. THE GOJ'S STATEMENT:

-- NOTES THAT THE USG HAS ALREADY EXPRESSED ITS OWN REGRET OVER THE UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT

-- STATES THAT THE GOJ, TOO, BELIEVES THAT THE TRAGIC LOSS OF LIFE IN THE INCIDENT IS "DEEPLY REGRETTABLE"

-- EXPRESSES GOJ CONDOLENCES FOR THE CRASH VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES

-- EXPRESSES HOPE THAT SIMILAR INCIDENTS WILL NOT OCCUR AND THAT THE PRESENT SITUATION WILL NOT LEAD TO AN ESCALATION OF TENSIONS IN THE GULF

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-- APPEALS FOR AN EARLY END TO THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR

4. IN PROVIDING THE OUTLINE OF THE GOJ'S REACTION TO US, OKAMOTO SAID HE BELIEVED THAT THE TACK THE GOJ WAS TAKING WOULD BE IN LINE WITH OUR OWN REACTION: EXPRESSING SORROW AND REGRET OVER THE LOSS OF HUMAN LIFE BUT AVOIDING STATEMENTS REGARDING RESPONSIBILITY. THE GOJ WOULD HOLD FIRMLY TO THIS LINE IN RESPONSE TO MEDIA QUESTIONS ABOUT WHO WAS AT FAULT, HE SAID. AT THE SAME TIME, OKAMOTO SAID MOFA HAD HEARD THAT THE USG WOULD SHORTLY BRIEF ITS ALLIES ON THE INCIDENT. OKAMOTO SAID HE HOPED WE WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE THE GOJ WITH ADDITIONAL DETAILS SOON. (FYI: AS THIS CABLE IS BEING DRAFTED, NHK AND OTHER TV NETWORKS ARE REPORTING THAT PRIME MINISTER TAKESHITA, NOW VISITING AUSTRALIA, MADE A STATEMENT TO THE MEDIA ALONG THE LINES OF PARA 3 ABOVE. END FYI)

5. MOFA NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU DEPUTY DG TOKINOYA TOLD POLCOUNS AT THE AMBASSADOR'S JULY 4TH RECEPTION THAT, IN HIS ESTIMATION, JAPANESE MEDIA AND PUBLIC REACTION TO THE INCIDENT WAS LIKELY TO BE CONSTRAINED BY AWARENESS OF THE ROLE THE U.S. PLAYS IN THE GULF ON BEHALF OF THE WEST AND JAPAN. AT THE SAME TIME, TOKINOYA CONTINUED, THERE MIGHT BE A NEED TO STUDY THE LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OF THIS INCIDENT IN LIGHT OF THE POSITION ON

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88STATE 215251

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ATTACKS ON CIVIL AVIATION THAT JAPAN AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE WEST HAD TAKEN IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE SOVIET DESTRUCTION OF THE KAL 007 JETLINER. IN MAKING THIS POINT, TOKINOYA SAID THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT NOT TO WEAKEN THE REGIME ON THE PROTECTION OF CIVIL AVIATION THAT HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED AFTER THE KAL INCIDENT. TOKINOYA ADDED THAT A STRAIGHTFORWARD U.S. APOLOGY FOR THE INCIDENT, GOING BEYOND THE EXPRESSIONS OF REGRET, WOULD PLAY VERY WELL WITH THE JAPANESE PUBLIC.

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6. MORNING EDITIONS OF LOCAL NEWSPAPERS HAD GONE TO PRESS PRIOR TO THEIR RECEIPT OF THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT, BUT JAPANESE TELEVISION NETWORKS HAVE GIVEN EXTENSIVE BUT STRAIGHTFORWARD COVERAGE TO THE INCIDENT. NHK TELEVISION SIGNED ON THE AIR 30 MINUTES EARLY MONDAY MORNING (JULY 4) TO COVER THE STORY. NHK AND OTHER NETWORKS HAVE RUN EXTENSIVE FILM FOOTAGE OF THE CRASH SITE, WRECKAGE, EFFORTS TO RECOVER THE BODIES OF VICTIMS, AND THE OFFICIAL IRANIAN STATEMENTS ON THE INCIDENT MADE BY SENIOR IRANIAN OFFICIALS. THE NETWORKS, AFTER EMPHASIZING THAT NO JAPANESE NATIONALS WERE ABOARD THE FLIGHT, LED WITH USG JUSTIFICATION FOR THE ACTION, AND THEN THE U.S. EXPRESSION OF REGRET OVER THE LOSS OF LIFE. THE NETWORKS GAVE FULL COVERAGE TO PRESIDENT REAGAN'S AND ADMIRAL CROWE'S STATEMENTS (REFTEL). NHK AND OTHER TV NETWORKS ALSO REPORTED THE OFFICIAL REACTIONS OF THE U.K., FRANCE, AND THE PRC DURING THEIR MORNING BROADCASTS AND DESCRIBED SOVIET COVERAGE OF THE INCIDENT AS FACTUAL AND WITHOUT ANY COMMENTARY.

7. JAPANESE NETWORKS ARE ALSO SPECULATING ABOUT WHAT EFFECT THE INCIDENT MAY HAVE ON U.S. MIDDLE EAST POLICY AND SUGGESTING THAT IRAN'S DIPLOMATIC POSITION IN THE REGION COULD IMPROVE IN THE AFTERMATH OF THIS LATEST US-IRANIAN CONFRONTATION. ONE MAJOR COMMERCIAL NETWORK NOTED THAT WHILE THE IRANIANS CANNOT HOPE TO COMPETE WITH THE U.S. MILITARILY, USING THIS INCIDENT, THEY WOULD PUT FORWARD THEIR CASE TO THE COURT OF WORLD OPINION. MOST MEDIA SPECULATION AT THIS POINT IS CENTERED AROUND THE CAUSES OF THE INCIDENT, SPECIFICALLY, HOW THE IRANIAN COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT COULD HAVE BEEN MISTAKEN FOR AN F-14 BY THE VINCENNES. IN THIS REGARD, THE NETWORKS ARE MAKING EXTENSIVE USE OF FILE FOOTAGE ON AEGIS VESSELS

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(INCLUDING THE VINCENNES) AND NOTING JAPAN'S OWN PLANS TO PURCHASE THE AEGIS SYSTEM. THE MEDIA HAS CITED EXPERTS
...PAGE 10.

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88STATE 215251

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AS ESTABLISHING THAT THE AEGIS SYSTEM IS EASILY CAPABLE OF DISCRIMINATING BETWEEN A WIDE-BODY AIRCRAFT AND A FIGHTER, AND THE PRESS IS SPECULATING THAT THE ATTACK WAS PROBABLY THEREFORE DUE TO HUMAN ERROR RATHER THAN EQUIPMENT FAILURE.

8. COMMENT: WE WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW CLOSELY THE JAPANESE OFFICIAL AND MEDIA REACTION TO THE INCIDENT. IN THE MEANTIME, WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION WHICH WE MIGHT SHARE WITH THE GOJ. END COMMENT.

MANSFIELD

UNQUOTE WHITEHEAD

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ADP981
UNCLASSIFIEDPAGE 01 OTTAWA 05473 01 OF 02 061639Z
ACTION EUR-00INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 CIP-08
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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
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THE WHITE HOUSE
AMCONSUL HALIFAX
AMCONSUL QUEBEC
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL TORONTO
AMCONSUL CALGARY
AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 OTTAWA 05473

USIA

AGENCY FOR P/M (INFO O/R); P/GF; P/FW; P/FN; VOA/BXN;
P/PFE; EU
STATE FOR EUR/CAN; EUR/PA
WHITE HOUSE PASS NSC/WEUROPEE.O. 12356 N/A
TAGS: ECPS, PREL, CA, IRSUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION --SHOOTING DOWN OF IRANIAN
JETLINER1. THE SHOOTING DOWN OF THE IRANIAN AIRBUS CONTINUED TO
BE A MAJOR TOPIC IN CANADIAN NEWSPAPER EDITORIALS.
EXCERPTS FOLLOW.2. AN ITEM BY INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COLUMNIST RICHARD
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GWYN APPEARED JULY 6 IN THE TORONTO STAR. IT WAS
CALLED: "SIMPLY PUT, THE U.S. LIVES BY THE SWORD."
"IT ISN'T NECESSARILY TRUE THAT THOSE WHO LIVE BY THE
SWORD DIE BY THE SWORD. BUT IT IS TRUE ABSOLUTELY THAT
THOSE WHO LIVE BY THE SWORD KILL....THE TRUTH THAT
MATTERS, THOUGH, IS THAT AN ACCIDENT LIKE THIS, WHETHER
INVOLVING HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE OR A HANDFUL, AND WHETHER
IT TAKES PLACE IN THE PERSIAN GULF OR SOMEWHERE ELSE IN
THE WORLD, HAS BEEN WAITING TO HAPPEN FOR YEARS. IT HAS

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HAPPENED BEFORE. IT WILL HAPPEN AGAIN...

3. "THE REASON WHY IS THAT THE U.S. IS LIVING BY THE SWORD. AMERICANS DIDN'T WILL THIS TO HAPPEN...ONCE, THE MOTIVE WAS IDEALISTIC. THE U.S. WAS GOING TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM THE MENACE OF COMMUNISM. 'BECAUSE AMERICANS ARE MORALISTIC PEOPLE, THAT INSPIRATION STILL APPLIES, BROADENED NOW INTO A BATTLE AGAINST THE PARTICULAR HORROR OF TERRORISM.

4. "BUT HABIT, THE ARROGANCE OF MIGHT, AND ABOVE ALL, THE QUEST FOR PROFIT, HAVE COARSENEDED THE ORIGINAL MOTIVE, AND HAVE DEFORMED IT. THE U.S. TODAY MOST OFTEN KILLS AT A DISTANCE....TO A DEGREE THAT IS DISTURBING, THE U.S. HAS BEGUN TO RESEMBLE ITS ORIGINAL OPPONENT. THE SOVIET UNION IS OFTEN DESCRIBED AS A ONE-DIMENSIONAL SUPERPOWER. SIMILARLY, THE U.S. IS MILITARILY OMNIPOTENT AT THE SAME TIME AS ITS ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL STRENGTH IS DECLINING....

5. "EITHER THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DECIDE COLLECTIVELY TO CHANGE THEMSELVES, MUCH IN THE WAY THE SOVIET PEOPLE NOW ARE ATTEMPTING TO DO, OR THEY WILL GO ON LIVING BY THE SWORD AND SO WILL GO ON KILLING -- UNHAPPY AND PUZZLED
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THAT THEY ARE DOING IT, BUT UNABLE TO STOP."

6. THE TORONTO SUN'S EDITORIAL, "THE SHOW-OFFS" DEPLORED THE ACTIONS OF A GROUP OF ANARCHISTS WHO DEMONSTRATED AGAINST THE U.S. IN TORONTO. "....THEIR BEHAVIOR DOWNTOWN ADDED ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO THE AGONIZING DEBATE OVER THE IRANIAN AIRLINER. THEY USED A COMPLICATED INTERNATIONAL TRAGEDY AS AN EXCUSE TO REVEL IN VIOLENCE, TO SHOW OFF THEIR BRUTISHNESS....THIS WAS HARDLY A WARSHIP HUNTING FOR VICTIMS. BUT WE'RE PREPARED TO WAIT, DESPITE WELL-GROUNDED SUSPICIONS, FOR MORE REAL FACTS BEFORE WE BARBECUE AN ALLY...."

7. ON JULY 5, THE FRENCH-LANGUAGE DAILY "LA PRESSE" CARRIED A LEAD EDITORIAL ENTITLED: "TRAGIC ERROR". "OFFICIALLY, THE UNITED STATES IS NEUTRAL IN THIS WAR, BUT THE PRESENCE OF A FLEET IN THE GULF TO GUARANTEE THE FREE PASSAGE IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS HAS ALWAYS TIPPED THE STRATEGIC BALANCE IN FAVOR OF IRAQ.

8. "THE IDEA OF PROTECTING NAVIGATION IN THE GULF WAS A GOOD ONE, BUT THE ROLE OF THE AMERICAN NAVY WAS EXTREMELY DOUBTFUL AS SOON AS AMERICAN NEUTRALITY WAS REVEALED AS BEING MORE OPPORTUNISTIC THAN IMPARTIAL. "BY STRIKING DOWN AN IRANIAN AIRCRAFT, THE AMERICANS ARE MORE THAN EVER HELD IN CONTEMPT BY IRAN...
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THEY CAN CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN A CERTAIN MILITARY
STABILITY BETWEEN THE TWO BELLIGERENTS BUT THEY CAN NO
LONGER HOPE TO REUNITE THEM ONE DAY AT A NEGOTIATING
TABLE. THE UNITED STATES ALWAYS STRESSED ITS PEACEFUL
INTENTIONS AND ITS RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW. THE

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ACTION EUR-00

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AMCONSUL QUEBEC
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL TORONTO
AMCONSUL CALGARY
AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 OTTAWA 05473

USIA

AGENCY FOR P/M (INFO P/R); P/GF; P/FW; P/FN; VOA/BXN;
P/PFE; EU
STATE FOR EUR/CAN; EUR/PA
WHITE HOUSE PASS NSC/WEUROPE

E.O. 12356 N/A
TAGS: ECPS, PREL, CA, IR

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION --SHOOTING DOWN OF IRANIAN

MILITARY ROLE THAT REMAINS FOR IT NOW CONTRADICTS THE
MOST FAR-REACHING ASPIRATIONS."

9. ANOTHER FRENCH-LANGUAGE DAILY, "LE SOLEIL" RAN "THE
MURDEROUS BLUNDER OF THE GULF" ON JULY 5. "IT'S NOT THE
CONDOLENCES OF PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN TO THE FAM
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LIES
DISTRAUGHT BY WHAT HE TERMED 'A TERRIBLE HUMAN TRAGEDY'
THAT WILL PACIFY MINDS. ONE SHOULD, LIKE ITALY STATED,
MULTIPLY THE EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH A DURABLE PEACE IN THE
PERSIAN GULF. A NEUTRAL INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION MUST
MAKE WHOLLY CLEAR THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THIS TRAGEDY.

10. "UNTIL THEN, IT IS BETTER TO RESERVE WISELY ONE'S
JUDGEMENT BECAUSE NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE FANATICS

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OF THE ISLAMIC REVOLUTION...MEANWHILE, THE UNITED STATES WON'T HAVE TOO MUCH TROUBLE CONVINCING ITS PARTNERS OF ITS SINCERITY AND JUSTIFYING ITS MILITARY ENGAGEMENT IN THE GULF. IN FACT, THE ARAB ALLIES ARE HAPPY THAT THE IMPRESSIVE AMERICAN NAVAL FLEET SUCCEEDED, FOR A YEAR, TO COUNTER ATTACKS FROM THE FAST PATROL BOATS....

11. "HOWEVER, THE REAL CHALLENGE IS TO ASSURE THE LIBERTY OF PEOPLE WITHOUT SUPPRESSING IT FOR OTHERS. IN THAT SENSE, WASHINGTON, WHICH CALLS ITSELF NEUTRAL, IS THE JUDGE IN THAT REGION OF THE GLOBE FOR HAVING TAKEN A POSITION IN FAVOR OF IRAQ. THE MOMENT HAS COME FOR THE WORLD COMMUNITY TO TAKE OVER BY GIVING THE UNITED NATIONS STRENGTH SUFFICIENT TO FOSTER THE BIRTH OF A DURABLE PEACE WHILE RESPECTING THE RIGHTS OF EVERYONE.

12. AN EDITORIAL IN THE MORNING EDITION OF THE JULY 5 VANCOUVER PROVINCE WAS TITLED, "MISLED BY RADAR OR EDGY FINGERS?" "THE DOWNING OF AN IRAN AIR AIRBUS BY AN AMERICAN WARSHIP IS A DISASTER OF HUGE HUMAN AND POLITICAL PROPORTIONS...IT IS THE WORST TRAGEDY INVOLVING MILITARY DESTRUCTION OF A CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT...AND WHATEVER THE ANSWERS, IT IS AN IMMENSE EMBARRASSMENT FOR THE U.S. WHOSE INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

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MUST INEVITABLY SUFFER....

13. "IS EVERY COMMERCIAL PLANE THAT GOES OFF COURSE A LEGITIMATE TARGET FOR ATTACK BY EDGY TRIGGER FINGERS FROM NOW ON? IT'S A POLITICAL NIGHTMARE FOR OUTGOING PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN. RETALIATION BY IRAN IS A CERTAINTY. THE DILEMMA WILL BE WHETHER AND HOW TO RESPOND TO THAT ACT OF REVENGE....

14. "THE IRANIANS FURTHER CLAIM THE AIRCRAFT WAS VISIBLE TO THE NAKED EYE AND PROFESS TO HAVE TELEVISION FOOTAGE OF THE PLANE'S UNTIMELY END. THAT WOULD BE STRANGE INDEED. WHY WOULD THEY TELEWISE AN AIRBUS MAKING A ROUTINE COMMERCIAL HOP ACROSS THE GULF? SPECULATIVE COMMENT HAS ACCUSED BOTH IRAN AND THE U.S. OF ORCHESTRATING THIS TRAGEDY AS A DELIBERATE ACT OF PROVOCATION. LET US HOPE NEITHER WOULD SO SACRIFICE INNOCENT CIVILIANS...."

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INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
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UNCLAS HELSINKI 04937

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PREL, IR, US, FI

SUBJECT: FINNISH REACTION TO DOWNING OF IRANIAN PLANE

1. FINNISH REACTION TO THE DOWNING OF THE IRANIAN PLANE HAS BEEN GENERALLY MILD. A GOVERNMENT STATEMENT RELEASED JULY 4 READ AS FOLLOWS: "THE FINNISH GOVERNMENT HAS LEARNED WITH PROFOUND REGRET OF THE TRAGIC LOSS OF THE LIVES OF MORE THAN 200 HUMAN BEINGS ABOARD AN IRANIAN CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT AS A RESULT OF U.S. MILITARY ACTION ARISING OUT OF THE TENSE SITUATION IN THE PERSIAN GULF AREA. THE FINNISH GOVERNMENT WISHES TO OFFER ITS SINCERE CONDOLENCES TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, TO THE BEREAVED FAMILIES AND THEIR RELATIVES FOR THIS TRAGIC HUMAN SUFFERING."

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PAGE 02 HELSIN 04937 061436Z

2. CAPTAIN JUHANI IKONEN, CHAIRMAN OF THE FINNISH AIRLINE PILOTS ASSOCIATION, PRESUMED THAT THE ACCIDENT WAS CAUSED BY A "BAD FOUL-UP" ON THE U.S. SHIP. BUT HE UNDERScoreD THAT THE PRESENCE OF CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT IN A COMBAT AREA ALWAYS PRESENTED A DANGER FACTOR, AND THAT SUCH AIRCRAFT SHOULD ALWAYS STAY CLEAR OF THOSE AREAS.

3. EDITORIAL COMMENT FOCUSED ON THE FAILURE OF BOTH SIDES. INDEPENDENT "HELSINGIN SANOMAT" ASKED HOW A

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88HELSIN004937

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HIGH-TECHNOLOGY EQUIPPED U.S. SHIP COULD FAIL TO DISTINGUISH AN AIR BUS FROM AN F-14 FIGHTER. IT SAID THAT EVEN A WAR SITUATION COULD NOT JUSTIFY THE ATTACK. AT THE SAME TIME, IT SAID IRAN OWED THE WORLD AN EXPLANATION OF WHAT THE PLANE WAS DOING AT THE TIME. CONSERVATIVE "UUSI SUOMI" CALLED THE EPISODE A "SAD SIDELIGHT" TO THE "GULF WAR TRAGEDY" AND SAID IT WAS GOOD THAT THE U.S. ADMITTED ITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INCIDENT. "HUFVUDSTADSBLADET" SAYS THAT COMPARISONS WITH THE KAL INCIDENT ARE "UNREASONABLE" AND ALSO POINTS OUT THAT THE U.S. HAD NO INTEREST IN SHOOTING DOWN UNARMED IRANIAN PLANES. SDP DAILY "DEMARI", FOR ITS PART, CLAIMS THAT THE TRAGEDY WAS ROOTED IN THE U.S. DECISION TO INCREASE ITS MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE GULF. IT ACCUSED THE U.S. OF ACTING AS A "WORLD POLICEMAN" AND CALLED THE PRESIDENT'S EXPLANATION OF THE INCIDENT AS A "COARSE JOKE." IT SUGGESTED THAT THE U.S. REEVALUATE ITS POLICIES IN THE GULF AND START "REAL PEACE-ADVANCING MOVES" IN THE AREA. MAJORITY COMMUNIST "KANSAN UUTISET", NOT SURPRISINGLY, ACCUSED THE U.S. OF "TERRORISM," BUT ALSO SAID THE INCIDENT UNDERScoreD THE IMPORTANCE OF SUPERPOWER COOPERATION IN ENDING THE WAR. IN A REMARK THAT COULD BE DIRECTED TO THE SOVIETS, THE PAPER SAID THAT "IF THE SUPERPOWERS DECIDE THAT ENDING UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 HELSIN 04937 061436Z

THE WAR IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN SALES OF ARMS, THE WAR CAN BE ENDED."

4. DURING EMBASSY JULY 4 RECEPTION, MOST VISITORS EITHER STAYED AWAY FROM THE SUBJECT OR WERE GENERALLY UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE U.S. POSITION. SCHNABEL

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ACTION NEA-11

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FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5228

INFO GULF WAR COLLECTIVE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ MUSCAT 03857

E.O. 12356 DECL:OADR

TAGS: PREL, MU

SUBJECT: UNOFFICIAL LOCAL REACTION TO IRAN AIR TRAGEDY

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.
-
2. INITIAL SOUNDINGS OF OMANI CONTACTS INDICATE A PREDICTABLY SUBDUED POPULAR REACTION TO THE DOWNING OF THE IRANIAN AIRBUS. THE EMBASSY HAS DETECTED NO ANGER OR ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENTS BECAUSE OF THE INCIDENT, WHICH IS GENERALLY VIEWED AS TRAGIC BUT NOT UNDULY SIGNIFICANT, GIVEN THE CONTEXT OF THE WAR.
-
3. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH OMANIS, THE SUBJECT OFTEN DOES NOT EVEN COME UP. INDICATIVE WAS A MEETING ECONOFF HAD WITH TWO OFFICIALS FROM THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ON JULY 5. DURING A 10-MINUTE GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE WAR, NEITHER OFFICIAL MENTIONED THE INCIDENT.
-
4. OMANI MILITARY CONTACTS HAVE INFORMALLY EXPRESSED REGRET ABOUT THE INCIDENT WITHOUT ATTACHING ANY BLAME. BRITISH EXPATRIATES IN THE MILITARY HAVE GENERALLY BEEN SUPPORTIVE.

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PAGE 02

MUSCAT 03857 061239Z

5. THE DOWNING OF THE AIRCRAFT IS GENERALLY PERCEIVED AS AN ACCIDENT. A BUSINESS PARTNER OF ONE ROYAL FAMILY MEMBER, FOR EXAMPLE, NOTED THAT IT HAD BEEN CONFIRMED THAT THE AIRLINER WAS OUTSIDE OF THE DESIGNATED AIR CORRIDOR AND WONDERED WHAT THE PILOT HAD BEEN UP TO.

6. IF THERE IS ONE GROUP THAT IS MORE TROUBLED BY THE INCIDENT, IT IS OMAN'S SMALL SHIA COMMUNITY. ACCORDING

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88MUSCAT003857

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TO A SHIA FSN, THERE IS NO REAL SHIA ANGER AT THE U.S.
BUT THERE IS DISBELIEF THAT THE U.S. COULD NOT
DISTINGUISH BETWEEN AN F-14 AND AN AIRBUS.
MONTGOMERY

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ACTION EAP-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-10	EUR-00	SS-00	OIC-02	AF-00
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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9526

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 CANBERRA 06169

CINCPAC ALSO FOR FPA

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: MOPS, IR, US, AS

SUBJECT: REACTION TO DOWNING OF IRANIAN AIRLINER

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.2. SUMMARY: AUSTRALIAN REACTION TO THE DOWNING OF
THE IRANIAN AIRLINER HAS GENERALLY FOCUSED ON THE~~CONFIDENTIAL~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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HUMAN SIDE OF THE INCIDENT, WITH PRIME MINISTER HAWKE
CALLING IT A TRAGIC CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY.

EDITORIAL OPINION HAS RANGED FROM GENERALLY

SUPPORTIVE OF THE U.S. TO MILDLY CRITICAL, BUT WITH

MOST TAKING A WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE REGARDING PLACING

FINAL BLAME. THE IRANIAN AMBASSADOR ADOPTED AN

UNUSUAL MODERATE STANCE, LABELING IT A PROBABLE

MISTAKE RATHER THAN A DELIBERATE ACT, BUT STILL

CALLING FOR WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. NAVY FORCES FROM THE

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GULF. THE GOA HAS ESTABLISHED THAT THERE WERE NOT ANY AUSTRALIANS ON BOARD THE AIRCRAFT. AUSTRALIAN OFFICIALS ARE CLEARLY EAGER TO HEAR MORE ABOUT THE DETAILS AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE INCIDENT AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE. END SUMMARY.

3. PRIME MINISTER HAWKE ON JULY 4 MADE A BRIEF STATEMENT ON THE DOWNING OF THE IRANIAN AIRLINER, SAYING THE INCIDENT SEEMED A TRAGIC CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY. DFAT ISSUED A MORE GUARDED STATEMENT BY MINISTER HAYDEN THE SAME MORNING. BOTH STATEMENTS ARE CONVEYED IN PARAS 8 AND 9 BELOW.

4. INITIAL EDITORIALS IN MAJOR AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPERS GENERALLY FOCUSED ON THE HUMAN TRAGEDY OF THE INCIDENT AND TOOK A WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE REGARDING THE APPORTIONMENT OF BLAME. SURPRISINGLY, THE MOST CRITICAL EDITORIAL APPEARED IN THE GENERALLY CONSERVATIVE "AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL REVIEW", WHICH CALLED PARTS OF ADMIRAL CROWE'S JULY 3 PRESS BRIEFING "GLIB" AND SAID THAT THE ARGUMENT FOR DEFENSIVE ACTION BY U.S. FORCES IN THIS CASE WAS PARTICULARLY THIN. THE NORMALLY CRITICAL "CANBERRA TIMES" WAS SURPRISINGLY SYMPATHETIC TO THE U.S., WHILE STILL

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MANAGING TO GET IN A DIG ABOUT THE U.S. ROLE AS WORLD POLICEMAN. ONE COMMON THEME IN MANY PRESS ARTICLES IS A CONCERN THAT TECHNOLOGY MAY BE DISPLACING THE HUMAN ELEMENT IN WAR FIGHTING, AND IN SOME CASES THIS LED TO CUTTING REMARKS ABOUT "VAUNTED U.S. TECHNOLOGY."

5. OUR GOA CONTACTS SEEM RELUCTANT TO BE JUDGMENTAL WITHOUT HAVING MORE DETAILS. ONE DFAT OFFICIAL, FOR INSTANCE, EXPRESSED KEEN INTEREST IN KNOWING HOW FAR THE AIRLINER WAS OUTSIDE THE COMMERICAL AIR COORIDOR WHEN THE INCIDENT OCCURRED. OUR GOA COLLEAGUES ACCEPTED WITH KEEN INTEREST COPIES OF STATEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT AND ADMIRAL CROWE AND THE TRANSCRIPT OF ADMIRAL CROWE'S PRESS BRIEFING, WHICH EMBOFFS CARRIED AROUND TO VARIOUS GOA OFFICES ON JULY 4 AND 5.

6. THE IRANIAN AMBASSADOR TO CANBERRA, MEHDI KHANDAGHABADI, WAS RELATIVELY MODERATE IN DISCUSSING THE INCIDENT WITH THE MEDIA. IN AN INTERVIEW AIRED ON EVENING TELEVISION ON JULY 4 AND THEN HEADLINED IN THE NEXT MORNING'S "AUSTRALIAN" NEWSPAPER, HE CALLED THE SHOOTDOWN A "MISTAKE" (ALBEIT A "SUSPICIOUS" ONE) RATHER THAN A DELIBERATE ACT OF AGGRESSION. HIS BOTTOM LINE, HOWEVER, WAS VERY FAMILIAR. THE INCIDENT SHOWS THAT THE U.S. NAVY IS A DESTABILIZING

PAGE NO. 2

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PRESENCE IN THE PERSIAN GULF AND SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN
IMMEDIATELY. (COMMENT: IF THIS SHOW OF MODERATION
WAS INTENDED TO PLAY SOMEHOW TO AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC
OPINION, ITS IMPACT IS BEING ERODED BY MEDIA
REPORTING OF THE MUCH MORE VITRIOLIC STATEMENTS OF
THE IRANIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE U.N.)

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PAGE 01 CANBER 06169 02 OF 02 060823Z
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	CIAE-00	EB-00	-H-01	MSC-01	IO-19	NEA-06	NSCE-00
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O 060817Z JUL 88
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9527
INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI
AMCONSUL SYDNEY
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 CANBERRA 06169

CINCPAC ALSO FOR FPA

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: MOPS, IR, US, AS
SUBJECT: REACTION TO DOWNING OF IRANIAN AIRLINER

7. AN EARLY CONCERN OF GOA, ONE THAT APPEARS TO BE
RESOLVED, WAS WHETHER ANY AUSTRALIANS WERE ON BOARD
THE AIRCRAFT. THE ANSWER SEEMS TO BE NONE, ACCORDING
TO THE HEAD OF DFAT'S MIDDLE EAST SECTION. THE

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AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN TEHRAN (PLEASE PROTECT) HAS
REPORTED THAT, BASED UPON A CHECK OF THE MANIFEST,
THE FLIGHT CARRIED 31 NON-IRANIANS: ITALIAN (1),
INDIAN (10), YUGOSLAV (6), PAKISTANI (6) AND UNITED
ARAB EMIRATES (8).

8. TEXT OF HAWKE STATEMENT (IN RESPONSE TO
JOURNALIST REQUEST FOR HIS REACTION: "WE LIT'S A
TRAGEDY AND I DEEPLY REGRET THE INCIDENT AND EXTEND

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OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE VICTIMS. IT SEEMS TO BE A CASE, ON THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO ME, THAT IN THE HEAVY FIGHTING THAT WAS OCCURRING BETWEEN THE GUN SHIPS OF THE UNITED STATES AND IRAN THAT THERE WAS A CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY AND I UNDERSTAND THAT THE AMERICANS HAVE INSTITUTED AN IMMEDIATE THOROUGH INVESTIGATION INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND I BELIEVE THAT WE'LL BE KEPT INFORMED OF THOSE INVESTIGATIONS BUT I REPEAT I REGRET THE INCIDENT VERY DEEPLY."

9. TEXT OF HAYDEN STATEMENT: "THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE, MR. BILL HAYDEN, SAID TODAY HE WAS SADDENED BY THE TRAGIC EVENTS OVERNIGHT IN THE GULF OF HORMUZ. HE EXPRESSED DEEP SYMPATHIES FOR THE VICTIMS AND TO THEIR FAMILIES. AUSTRALIA WAS WAITING ADVICE FROM OUR EMBASSIES IN TEHRAN AND WASHINGTON CONCERNING THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE TRAGEDY, PARTICULARLY THE FACTORS WHICH LED TO THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE AIRCRAFT AS BEING OF HOSTILE INTENT. THIS LATEST TRAGIC INCIDENT FURTHER UNDERSCORES THE URGENT NEED TO BRING THE WAR BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ TO A NEGOTIATED AND LASTING SETTLEMENT."

10. COMMENT: OUR GOA CONTACTS HAVE SHOWN LITTLE

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INCLINATION TO DISCUSS THE RAMIFICATIONS OF THE INCIDENT, PENDING FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE INVESTIGATION. AS HAWKE INDICATED IN HIS STATEMENT, THE GOA CLEARLY IS EAGER TO HEAR MORE ABOUT THE DETAILS AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE INCIDENT AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE PROGRESS REPORTS CONCERNING RADM FOGARTY'S INVESTIGATION, IF POSSIBLE, TO MEET THE GOA INTEREST IN THIS SUBJECT.
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ACTION NEA-04INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 SS-00 AF-00 EB-00 NSCE-00 CPR-02
/006 WP 061356Z JUL 88
FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000

UNCLAS HARARE 03419

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL, ZI
SUBJECT: LETTER TO PRESIDENT REAGAN ON IRANIAN AIRLINER

1. THE ZIMBABWE MFA HAS REQUESTED THAT WE TRANSMIT
THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM PRESIDENT MUGABE TO PRESIDENT
REAGAN. THE TEXT OF THIS LETTER WAS RELEASED TO THE
LOCAL PRESS JULY 5.
BEGIN QUOTE:

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I HAVE LEARNT WITH PROFOUND SHOCK, THAT A US WARSHIP, THE
USS VINCENNES, SHOTDOWN AN IRANIAN CIVILIAN AIRBUS IN THE
GULF REGION KILLING ALL THE 290 PERSONS ABOARD.

THE TRAGIC INCIDENT, WHICH HAS DESERVEDLY EARNED WORLD
CONDEMNATION OR CRITICISM, IS A DIRECT CONSEQUENCE OF A
VICIOUS BIG POWER NAVAL BUILD-UP IN THE TENSION-RIDDEN
GULF REGION. I HAVE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS IN THE PAST
WARNED, ON BEHALF OF THE MOVEMENT OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES
THAT THE BIG POWER NAVAL BUILD-UP IN THE GULF WAS A GRAVE
THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL CIVILIAN SHIPPING IN THE REGION.
THE SHOOTING DOWN OF THE IRANIAN AIRBUS A-300 BY THE US
NAVY DOES NOT ONLY INCREASE INTERNATIONAL CONCERN AND
ANXIETY ABOUT THE SECURITY OF CIVILIAN SHIPPING IN THE
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PAGE 02 HARARE 03419 061359Z

AREA, IT ALSO DEMONSTRATES VERY TRAGICALLY THE SERIOUS
INSECURITY OF CIVIL AVIATION IN THE REGION.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, IT IS MY HOPE, AND THAT OF OUR ENTIRE
MOVEMENT, THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE SURE THAT THE
CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE TRAGEDY ARE THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED,
IF NECESSARY BY AN INTERNATIONAL TEAM OF EXPERTS. IN
THE MEANTIME, I WISH TO CALL UPON YOU YOUR EXCELLENCY AND
ALL CONCERNED TO WITHDRAW YOUR COUNTRIES' NAVIES FROM THE

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Date 9/18/9

MR Cases Only:
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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88HARARE003419

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GULF IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH FOR
A PEACEFUL AND LASTING SETTLEMENT OF THE CONFLICT BETWEEN
IRAN AND IRAQ.

ACCEPT, YOUR EXCELLENCY, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST
CONSIDERATION. END QUOTE.

LETTER SIGNED BY R.G. MUGABE, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC
OF ZIMBABWE AND CHAIRMAN OF THE MOVEMENT OF NON-ALIGNED
COUNTRIES ADDRESSED TO HIS EXCELLENCY, MR RONALD REAGAN,
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, WASHINGTON,
D.C.

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88BELGRA006566

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

16/PPG/CDR 725

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BELGRA 06566

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	OMB-01	INRE-00	USIE-00	SP-02	SNP-01	C-01	PRS-01
	DS-01	DSE-00	SCT-02	P-02	T-01	/072 W	

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4963

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

EASTERN EUROPEAN POSTS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 BELGRADE 06566

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR WALTERS

E.O. 12356; DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, YO

SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV REACTION TO EVENTS IN THE GULF

1. ~~ENTIRE~~ ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY. THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT HAS CALLED THE SHOOTING DOWN OF THE IRANIAN AIRLINER "IRRESPONSIBLE AND INCOMPREHENSIBLE," BUT THE GOY HAS NOT YET RAISED THE ISSUE WITH US. THE PRESS HAS FULLY REPORTED OFFICIAL U.S. REACTIONS, SUCH AS PRESIDENT REAGAN'S AND ADMIRAL CROWE'S STATEMENTS. IT HAS REPORTED EQUALLY FULLY IRANIAN STATEMENTS AND STATEMENTS FROM OTHER SOURCES CRITICAL OF THE U.S. CONSIDERABLE COVERAGE HAS NATURALLY FOCUSED ON THE DEATHS OF THE SIX YUGOSLAVS WHO WERE ABOARD THE PLANE. THE AMBASSADOR HAS SENT LETTERS OF CONDOLENCE TO

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THE YUGOSLAV PRESIDENT AND THE COMPANY THAT EMPLOYED THE YUGOSLAV VICTIMS IN IRAN. END SUMMARY.

3. ON JULY 5 THE YUGOSLAV FOREIGN SECRETARIAT ISSUED A STATEMENT CALLING THE DOWNING OF THE AIRLINER "AN IRRESPONSIBLE AND INCOMPREHENSIBLE ACT" WHICH IS "CONTRARY TO INTERNATIONAL LAW." THE STATEMENT GOES ON TO SAY THAT "THIS TRAGIC OCCURRENCE POINTS TO THE NEED TO ELIMINATE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THE

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88BELGRA006536

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CAUSES THAT HAVE LED TO THE WORSENING OF THE SITUATION IN THE GULF. IN THAT CONNECTION URGENT INTERNATIONAL ACTION IS REQUIRED ON THE BASIS OF U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 598 TO END THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR WITHOUT DELAY."

4. THE GOY HAS NOT YET RAISED THE ISSUE WITH US, HOWEVER, DESPITE AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO. ON JULY 5 FORMER NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER CLARK AND FORMER AMBASSADOR EAGLEBURGER, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR SCANLAN, CALLED ON YUGOSLAV STATE PRESIDENCY MEMBER JOSIP VRHOVEC, SERBIAN PARTY CHIEF SLOBODAN MILOSEVIC, AND THE CHIEF OF THE YUGOSLAV AIR FORCE GENERAL TUS DURING THE COURSE OF A PRIVATE VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA. NONE OF THE YUGOSLAVS RAISED THE GULF INCIDENT. NOR WAS IT MENTIONED BY SERBIAN PREMIER JEVTIC AND COLONEL GENERAL POPOVIC IN JULY 6 MEETINGS WITH EAGLEBURGER AND THE AMBASSADOR.

5. OTHER YUGOSLAV GROUPS HAVE ISSUED STATEMENTS ON THE GULF EVENTS AS WELL. THE FEDERAL ASSEMBLY'S FOREIGN POLICY COMMITTEE CALLED THE DOWNING OF THE JETLINER "INCOMPREHENSIBLE AND IRRESPONSIBLE" AND SAID "THERE IS NO WAY IT CAN BE JUSTIFIED."

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THE YUGOSLAV LEAGUE FOR PEACE CALLED THE INCIDENT "A CRUEL AND SENSELESS ATTACK ON AN UNPROTECTED AND HARMLESS CIVILIAN AIRPLANE." THE SOCIALIST YOUTH LEAGUE SAID THE INCIDENT WAS YET FURTHER EVIDENCE OF THE "ABSURDITY AND POINTLESSNESS OF THE GULF WAR." PRESIDENT DIZDAREVIC, PREMIER MIKULIC, AND FOREIGN SECRETARY LONCAR SENT TELEGRAMS OF CONDOLENCE TO THEIR IRANIAN COUNTERPARTS. DIZDAREVIC, MIKULIC, AND TRADE UNION LEADER MARJAN OROZEN SENT CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF THE YUGOSLAV VICTIMS AND TO THEIR EMPLOYER.

6. ON JULY 5 THE AMBASSADOR SENT THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO PRESIDENT DIZDAREVIC:

BEGIN TEXT:

I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS TO YOU AND TO THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS THE DEEP REGRET WITH WHICH I RECEIVED THE TRAGIC NEWS OF THE DEATHS OF THE YUGOSLAV WORKERS WHO WERE ABOARD THE IRANIAN AIRCRAFT. IT WAS A TERRIBLE HUMAN TRAGEDY. PLEASE ACCEPT MY SINCERE CONDOLENCES.

END TEXT.

THE AMBASSADOR SENT AN IDENTICAL LETTER TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE IVAN MILUTINOVIC COMPANY,

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88BELGRA006566

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THE EMPLOYER OF THE YUGOSLAV VICTIMS WHO WERE ABOARD THE IRANIAN PLANE. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE REMAINS OF THE YUGOSLAVS WILL BE RETURNED TO BELGRADE FOR BURIAL. MEETINGS WERE HELD AT THE COMPANY'S BELGRADE AND TEHRAN OFFICES YESTERDAY TO MOURN THE DEATHS OF THE YUGOSLAVS, AND THE BELGRADE NEWSPAPERS ON JULY 6 CARRIED PHOTOGRAPHS OF ALL SIX OF THEM.

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	H-01	MSC-01	IO-19	NEA-06	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	SSO-00
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	OMB-01	INRE-00	USIE-00	SP-02	SNP-01	C-01	PRS-01
	DS-01	DSE-00	SCT-02	P-02	T-01	/072 W	

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O 061556Z JUL 88
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4964
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
EASTERN EUROPEAN POSTS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 BELGRADE 06566

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR WALTERS

E.O. 12356: ~~DECLASSIFIED~~

TAGS: PREL, YO

SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV REACTION TO EVENTS IN THE GULF

7. PRESS COVERAGE HAS GENERALLY BEEN STRAIGHTFORWARD. EARLY ACCOUNTS FROM YUGOSLAV CORRESPONDENTS IN THE U.S. FOCUSED ON ADMIRAL CROWE'S PRESS CONFERENCE. LATER COVERAGE DWELT ON THE YUGOSLAV VICTIMS. BELGRADE TV COVERAGE ON THE EVENING OF JULY 4 WAS MORE SENSATIONAL AND DISPLAYED FOOTAGE SHOWING THE BODIES OF VICTIMS, INCLUDING CHILDREN, BEING RECOVERED FROM THE WATER TOGETHER WITH COMMENTS ON THE INCIDENT BY KHOMENI AND LIBYAN LEADER QADHAFI, WHO DID NOT MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE COMPARISONS TO THE 1986 BOMBING OF TRIPOLI. BELGRADE TV COVERAGE ON THE EVENING OF JULY 5 WAS MORE RESTRAINED AND INCLUDED A BALANCED EXPLANATION OF THE INCIDENT BY EDWARD LAZANSKI, A PROMINENT MILITARY AFFAIRS

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CORRESPONDENT FROM ZAGREB, WHO RECOUNTED THE ATTACK ON THE "STARK" AND SUBSEQUENT CHANGES IN U.S. RULES OF ENGAGEMENT. ZAGREB PRESS REPORTING HAS ALSO BEEN BALANCED. THE ZAGREB DAILY "VJESNIK" FEATURED AN ARTICLE BY LAZANSKI AND TV ZAGREB ON JULY 5 SAID THE AIRLINER WAS A CASUALTY OF THE GULF WAR.

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8. IN A FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL ENTITLED "A MISSILE

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FOR THE HOLIDAY" IN THE BELGRADE DAILY "BORBA"
ON JULY 5, THE PAPER'S FOREIGN EDITOR, SLOBODAN
PAVLOVIC, WROTE THAT "THE SENSELESS GULF CONFLICT
HAS CLAIMED NEW, INNOCENT VICTIMS" WHOSE DEATH IS
"THE LATEST AND, LET US HOPE, THE LAST WARNING AND
LAST APPEAL TO STOP THE BLOODLETTING."

9. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD INFORMALLY BY AN AIDE TO
FOREIGN SECRETARY LONCAR THAT WE CAN EXPECT TO BE
CALLED IN ABOUT THE GULF EVENTS, BUT SO FAR WE HAVE
HEARD NOTHING. ON JULY 8, UN AMB WALTERS WILL
CALL ON DEPUTY PREMIER MILOSAVLJEVIC AND ACTING
FOREIGN SECRETARY TRAJKOVSKI AND THE ISSUE MAY
WELL BE RAISED AT THAT TIME.
SCANLAN

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88STATE 216420

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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Date. 9/18/96

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DRAFTED BY: L/UNA:BRASHKOW

APPROVED BY: P:MARMACOST

USUN:RIMMERMAN

L:MMATHESON

L/NEA:PNORTON S/S:MKLOSSON

L:ADSOFAER DOD/ISA:EGNEHM

NEA:PBURLEIGH S/S-O:DTROTTER

P:AEASTHAM

PM/ISP:TOTIS/IO:BSCHRAGE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 216420

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PREL, MOPS, IR, UNSC

SUBJECT: MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT OF SECURITY COUNCIL

1. AMBASSADOR SHOULD IMMEDIATELY DELIVER THE FOLLOWING
MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY
COUNCIL.

2. MESSAGE FOLLOWS:

HIS EXCELLENCY

THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

UNITED NATIONS

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017

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DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

-- IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 51 OF THE CHARTER OF THE
UNITED NATIONS, I WISH ON BEHALF OF MY GOVERNMENT TO
REPORT THAT UNITED STATES FORCES HAVE EXERCISED THEIR
INHERENT RIGHT OF SELF DEFENSE UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW
BY TAKING DEFENSIVE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO AN ATTACK BY
THE THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN AGAINST UNITED STATES
FORCES LAWFULLY OPERATING IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS OF

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THE PERSIAN GULF.

--- ON JULY 3, 1988, THE USS VINCENNES, WHICH WAS OPERATING IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS IN THE PERSIAN GULF, SENT A HELICOPTER ON AN INVESTIGATIVE PATROL IN INTERNATIONAL AIRSPACE IN RESPONSE TO INDICATIONS THAT APPROXIMATELY A DOZEN IRANIAN SMALL BOATS WERE CONGREGATING TO ATTACK NEUTRAL MERCHANT SHIPPING. AT APPROXIMATELY 2:10 A.M. (EDT) ON JULY 3, 1988, A GROUP OF IRANIAN PATROL CRAFT FIRED ON THE UNITED STATES HELICOPTER. THE HELICOPTER, WITHOUT RETURNING FIRE, RETURNED IMMEDIATELY TO THE VINCENNES, WHICH WAS TEN NAUTICAL MILES FROM THE SCENE AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT. AT APPROXIMATELY 2:42 A.M. (EDT), AS THE VINCENNES AND ANOTHER U.S. NAVAL VESSEL WERE APPROACHING THE GROUP OF IRANIAN SMALL BOATS, AT LEAST FOUR OF THE SMALL BOATS TURNED TOWARD AND BEGAN CLOSING IN ON THE U.S. WARSHIPS. AT THAT TIME, BOTH U.S. SHIPS OPENED FIRE ON THE SMALL BOATS, SINKING TWO AND DAMAGING A THIRD. IN THE COURSE OF THE US RESPONSE TO THE IRANIAN ATTACK, THE VINCENNES FIRED IN SELF DEFENSE AT WHAT IT BELIEVED TO BE A HOSTILE IRANIAN MILITARY AIRCRAFT, AFTER SENDING REPEATED WARNINGS (TO WHICH THE

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AIRCRAFT DID NOT RESPOND). REGRETTABLY, THE CIVILIAN AIRLINER WAS SHOT DOWN BY THE VINCENNES. AS PRESIDENT REAGAN SAID, "THIS IS A TERRIBLE HUMAN TRAGEDY." THE UNITED STATES DEEPLY REGRETS THE TRAGIC LOSS OF LIFE THAT OCCURRED AND IS CONDUCTING A FULL INVESTIGATION. THE UNITED STATES WILL ALSO COOPERATE IN ALL APPROPRIATE RESPECTS WITH ANY ICAO INVESTIGATION INTO THIS INCIDENT.

-- IT REMAINS THE POLICY OF MY GOVERNMENT NOT TO SEEK A MILITARY CONFRONTATION WITH IRAN OR A WIDENING OF THE CONFLICT IN THE AREA.

-- THE ACTIONS OF THE U.S. FORCES IN RESPONSE TO BEING ATTACKED BY IRANIAN SMALL BOATS WERE TAKEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR INHERENT RIGHT OF SELF-DEFENSE, AS RECOGNIZED IN ARTICLE 51 OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER. THE TRAGIC LOSS OF LIVES RESULTING FROM THESE ACTIONS UNDERSCORES THE DANGERS POSED BY THE CONTINUATION OF THE GULF WAR, THE ROOT CAUSE OF TENSION AND VIOLENCE IN THE AREA, AND THE URGENCY OF BRINGING THIS SENSELESS CONFLICT TO AN EARLY END. THE UNITED STATES ONCE AGAIN CALLS UPON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, AND PARTICULARLY THE MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, TO JOIN US IN REDOUBLING OUR EFFORTS TO END

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THE WAR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND RESTORE PEACE AND
SECURITY TO THE REGION, THROUGH THE FULL AND RAPID
IMPLEMENTATION OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 598.

-- I ASK THAT YOU CIRCULATE THE TEXT OF THIS LETTER AS
A DOCUMENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

END TEXT
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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88STATE 216665

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Date: 9/18/96

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AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
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AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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MONTREAL FOR USREP TO ICAO

E.O. 12356:N/A

TAGS:AORC, EAIR, ICAO, IR

SUBJECT: ICAO CONSIDERATION OF IRAN AIR INCIDENT

REF: MONTREAL 2398 (NOTAL)

1. THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO ICAO IS AUTHORIZED TO TELL THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION (ICAO) THAT THE USG SUPPORTS THE CONVENING OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER THE INCIDENT INVOLVING IRAN AIR FLIGHT 655, THAT

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PAGE 03 STATE 216665

THE USG WILL ATTEND ON JULY 13, AND THAT THE USG WILL COOPERATE WITH ICAO IN ALL APPROPRIATE RESPECTS .

2. INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING U.S. PARTICIPATION IN AN ICAO INVESTIGATION WILL BE SENT SEPARATELY. --

3. FOR INFO ADDRESSEES: THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS PROVIDE BACKGROUND DATA ON THE CONVENING OF THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE ICAO COUNCIL, WHICH DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDS IS NOW SET FOR 2:30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, AT ICAO HEADQUARTERS IN MONTREAL:

A. JULY 4 MESSAGE FROM THE ICAO COUNCIL PRESIDENT, ASSAD

KOTAITE, TO THE 33 MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL (INCLUDING THE USG):

I HAVE RECEIVED TELEX MESSAGES FROM THE AUTHORITIES OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN CONCERNING THE DESTRUCTION, ON 3 JULY 1988, OF AN IRAN AIR AIRBUS A300 FLIGHT NO. IR655 FROM BANDAR-ABBAS TO DUBAI WHICH RESULTED IN THE LOSS OF 290 PERSONS. THE TELEX MESSAGES ARE ATTACHED HERETO AS ATTACHMENTS 1, 2 AND 3. IN ATTACHMENT 4 IS THE TEXT OF MY TELEX DATED 4 JULY 1988 ADDRESSED TO THE AUTHORITIES OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN.

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IT WILL BE NOTED THAT IN THE TELEX OF 4 JULY 1988 THE AUTHORITIES OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN "URGENTLY REQUEST THAT THIS GRAVE MATTER BE TABLED IN THE COUNCIL AS A MATTER OF URGENCY." IN THAT CONTEXT, I WILL APPROACH EACH REPRESENTATIVE ON THE COUNCIL SHORTLY AFTER THE DISTRIBUTION OF THIS MEMORANDUM WITH A VIEW OF CONSULTING THE REPRESENTATIVES ON THE COUNCIL, UNDER RULE 20 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE COUNCIL, ON THE CONVENING OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE COUNCIL.

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PAGE 04 STATE 216665

I WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED OF ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENT.

B. JULY 3 TELEX TO PRESIDENT OF THE ICAO COUNCIL FROM M.J. RANAEIFAR, VICE MINISTER OF ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION AND ADMINISTRATOR OF CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION, TEHRAN

THIS IS TO INFORM YOU AND THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LATEST AGGRESSIVE AND CRIMINAL ATTACK BY HOSTILE FORCES OF U.S.A IN PERSIAN GULF TOWARDS CIVIL AVIATION STP

ON 3RD JULY 1988, AN IRANAIR A300 FLT NO IR655 ENROUTE BANDAR ABBAS-DUBAI DEP FROM BANDAR ABBAS AT 0645 UTC ESTIMATED TIME OF POINT DARAX 0658 UTC, WAS ATTACKED AND SHOT DOWN BY MISSILE INTO THE WATERS OF THE PERSIAN GULF. FROM TOTAL NUMBER OF 290 PAX AND CREW REGRETFULLY SO FAR NO SURVIVOR IS REPORTED. I SHALL KEEP YOU INFORMED OF ANY FURTHER INFORMATION. IN THE INTEREST OF SAFETY AND SECURITY OF CIVIL AVIATION IN THE REGION AND FOR THE BENEFIT OF HUMANITY AS A WHOLE I KINDLY REQUEST YOU TO TAKE EFFECTIVE MEASURES IN CONDEMNING SAID HOSTILE AND CRIMINAL ACTS.

C. JULY 3 TELEX TO ICAO COUNCIL PRESIDENT FROM M.J. RANAEIFAR

FOLLOWING MY TLX 1004-508-21 DATED 03RD JULY 1988 FOR THIS GRAVE DISASTROUS INCIDENT, I STRONGLY URGE YOU AND MEMBERS

OF THE COUNCIL TO GIVE THIS MATTER YOUR PERSONAL ATTENTION AND INVITE YOU AND YOUR EXPERTS TO HAVE A VISIT AND STUDY OF THIS INHUMAN ACT OF U.S.A. IN PERSIAN GULF PROMPTLY.

D. JULY 4 TELEX TO ICAO COUNCIL PRESIDENT FROM M.J.

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88STATE 216665

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SUBSEQUENT TO MY PREVIOUS TELEXES OF JULY 3 REGARDING THE ATROCIOUS SHOOTING DOWN BY U.S. FORCES OF AN IRANAIR AIRBUS OVER THE PERSIAN GULF, I URGENTLY REQUEST THAT THIS GRAVE MATTER BE TABLED IN THE ICAO COUNCIL AS A MATTER OF URGENCY WITH THE VIEW THAT AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF ICAO ASSEMBLY BE URGENTLY CONVENED TO CONDUCT A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF ALL ASPECTS OF THE CATASTROPHE. WE FIRMLY BELIEVE PROMPT AND EFFECTIVE ATTN. OF ICAO IS NECESSARY IF SAFE CONDUCT OF CIVIL AIR TRANSPORTATION IS TO BE FOSTERED BY ICAO. PLEASE ADVISE THE ACTIONS TAKEN SO THAT A DELEGATION OF I.R. OF IRAN CAN PARTICIPATE AT THE REQUESTED COUNCIL MEETING.

E. JULY 4 TELEX FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ICAO COUNCIL TO M.J. RANAEIFAR

I WAS SHOCKED AND DISTRESSED BY THE NEWS OF THE DESTRUCTION OF IRAN AIR A300 FLIGHT NO. IR 655 EN ROUTE FROM BANDAR-ABBAS TO DUBAI WITH THE LOSS OF 290 LIVES. I WISH TO EXPRESS MY CONDOLENCES TO YOUR GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS TO THE BEREAVED FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS. THE POLICY OF ICAO IS AIMED AT THE SAFEGUARDING OF SAFETY AND REGULARITY OF CIVIL FLIGHTS ALONG THE APPROVED ATS ROUTES AND IS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THE USE OF WEAPONS AGAINST CIVIL AIRCRAFT.

I ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF YOUR TWO TELEXES REFERENCE 1004-508-21 OF 3 JULY 1988 AND OF YOUR FURTHER TELEX OF TODAY'S DATE. IN CONFORMITY WITH RULE 20 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE COUNCIL (DOC 7559/5), I WILL BE CONSULTING THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL CONCERNING THE CONVENING OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE COUNCIL. I WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED OF THE DEVELOPMENTS. WHITEHEAD

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88ABU DH003840

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SUBJ: IRANIAN AIR FLIGHT 655

1. (S) TEAM HEADED BY RADM FOGARTY IS EN ROUTE TO MANAMA TO CONDUCT INVESTIGATION INTO DOWNING OF IRAN AIR FLIGHT 655.
 2. (S) IRANIAN FLIGHT 655 REPORTED DESTINATION WAS DUBAI. REQUEST YOUR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING FROM DUBAI THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION: MANIFEST OF PASSENGERS FOR FLIGHT 655; FLIGHT SCHEDULE INCLUDING ETD AND ETA; WHEN THE FLIGHT PLAN WAS FILED AND CLEARED AND ROUTE IT WAS DIRECTED TO TAKE INCLUDING ALTITUDE AND HEADING, ANY RECORD OF ANY TRANSMISSIONS EMANATING FROM FLIGHT 655, AND IFF FLIGHT 655 WAS SQUAWKING.
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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88LONDONQ14442

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JCS WASHDC PRIORITY
USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 6908

UNCLAS LONDON 14442

E.O.12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL, UK, IR, ZP
SUBJECT: IRAN AIR PILOTS HOLD LONDON PRESS CONFERENCE

1. TWO IRAN AIR PILOTS GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE IRANIAN EMBASSY IN LONDON ON THE EVENING OF JULY 5 IN WHICH THEY DISPUTED THE U.S. VERSION OF EVENTS LEADING TO THE SHOOTDOWN. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE STORY REPORTED IN THE CENTRIST NEWSPAPER "THE INDEPENDENT," DATED WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, 1988.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

PILOTS DENY PLANE WAS OFF COURSE

BY MARK URBAN, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

IRAN HAS GIVEN ITS OWN VERSION OF THE LAST MOMENTS OF AIRBUS FLIGHT 655. TWO IRAN AIR PILOTS, WITH 37 YEARS OF SERVICE BETWEEN THEM, DISPUTED AMERICAN ACCOUNTS OF UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

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THE INCIDENT AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE IRANIAN EMBASSY IN LONDON LAST NIGHT.

THE PILOTS DISMISSED PENTAGON SUGGESTIONS THAT THE PLANE WAS OFF COURSE. ACCORDING TO CAPTAIN MEHROUJAN GHARIB, WRECKAGE FELL 3.8 NAUTICAL MILES FROM THE CENTER LINE OF THE FLIGHT CORRIDOR CODE-NAMED RED 59. THE ELECTRONIC TRANSPONDERS, WHICH IDENTIFY AIRCRAFT TO GROUND STATIONS, ARE CHECKED BY FLIGHT CREWS BEFORE THEY TAKE

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OFF FROM BANDAR ABBAS, THE IRANIAN SAID. THE FOUR-DIGIT CODE, PROGRAMMED INTO THE TRANSPONDER TO IDENTIFY THE PLANE, IS PROVIDED BY THE DUBAI AIRPORT AUTHORITIES, THE TWO MEN ADDED.

PILOTS ON THE ROUTE DO LISTEN TO THE INTERNATIONAL DISTRESS FREQUENCY 121.5. CAPTAIN GHARIB DISPUTED THE ALTITUDE GIVEN BY THE PENTAGON FOR THE AIRCRAFT AT THE TIME IT WAS DESTROYED. HE ALSO DENIED CLAIMS THAT IT WAS LOSING HEIGHT SHORTLY BEFORE IT WAS SHOT DOWN. "THAT AIRCRAFT WAS STILL CLIMBING AND HAD NOT REACHED ITS FINAL ALTITUDE. CAPTAIN MASSOUD RAZAVI, AN AIRBUS PILOT, ADDED THAT AT THAT POINT IN THE FLIGHT HE WOULD NORMALLY EXPECT TO BE AT AN ALTITUDE OF MORE THAN 10,000 FEET.

CAPTAIN GHARIB SAID THAT THE AIR CORRIDOR RED 59 EXTENDED TEN MILES TO EACH SIDE OF A CENTER LINE. THE CLAIM THAT WRECKAGE FELL 3.8 NAUTICAL MILES FROM THE LINE, IF SUBSTANTIATED, WOULD MEAN IT WAS WELL INSIDE THE CORRIDOR. THERE WAS SOME AMBIGUITY ON THE PART OF CAPTAIN RAZAVI AS TO WHETHER CALLS FROM AMERICAN WARSHIPS WERE ALWAYS ANSWERED. "IF THEY CALL AND YOU FEEL IT IS FOR YOU, YOU ANSWER IT," HE SAID, ADDING THAT
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THERE WAS OFTEN A GREAT DEAL OF AIR TRAFFIC, WHICH LED TO UNCERTAINTY AS TO WHO WAS BEING CALLED.

THE PILOTS WERE UNABLE TO SAY EXACTLY ON WHICH CODE THE PLANE'S ELECTRONIC IDENTIFYING TRANSPONDER WOULD HAVE BEEN OPERATING. THE PENTAGON CLAIMED YESTERDAY THAT IT WAS WORKING IN TWO MODES SIMULTANEOUSLY, ONE OF WHICH THEY NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH F-14 FIGHTERS. CAPTAIN RAZAVI SAID THE PENTAGON STATEMENT WAS INCORRECT AND THAT THE TRANSPONDER ON THE AIRBUS OPERATED ONLY IN WHAT HE CALLED MODE A. A SEARCH FOR THE BLACK BOX FLIGHT AND VOICE RECORDERS IS UNDERWAY. THERE WERE ALSO SUGGESTIONS THAT VISIBILITY OVER THE GULF WAS GOOD AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT. CAPTAIN GHARIB SAID THAT RESIDENTS OF ISLANDS A FEW MILES FROM THE INCIDENT HAD WITNESSED THE SHOOTING DOWN OF THE PLANE "WITH THE NAKED EYE." END TEXT.

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88STATE 215149

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TO ALL NEAR EASTERN AND SOUTH ASIAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

ADMINSUPU BAHRAIN BA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL KARACHI

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AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

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E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: OPRC

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING, JULY 5, 1988

FOR ADDRESSEE INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM TODAY'S PRESS BRIEFING. SPOKESMAN WAS PHYLLIS OAKLEY.

MRS. OAKLEY: GOOD AFTERNOON, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. I HAVE NO ANNOUNCEMENTS SO I'LL BE HAPPY TO BEGIN WITH YOUR QUESTIONS.

Q.: YOU'VE PROBABLY SEEN THE STATEMENTS FROM IRAN THREATENING A KIND OF WAR AGAINST THE UNITED STATES. HAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT ORDERED ANY SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS FOR AMERICANS LIVING OVERSEAS, ESPECIALLY DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL?

A.: WE HAVE -- WE ARE AWARE OF THOSE THREATS. WE'VE INSTRUCTED OUR OVERSEAS POSTS TO ENSURE THAT BOTH OFFICIAL AND NON-OFFICIAL AMERICANS BE INFORMED OF OUR CONCERNS ABOUT THESE THREATS FROM THE IRANIANS AND THAT THEY BE ADVISED TO INCREASE THEIR OWN PERSONAL SECURITY.
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WE DO HAVE TRAVEL ADVISORIES WHICH ALERT AMERICANS TO THE RISKS OF TRAVEL IN INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES IN WHICH THERE IS AN ESTABLISHED PATTERN OF VIOLENCE OR ATTACKS AGAINST AMERICANS. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NO GENERAL OR REGIONAL TRAVEL ADVISORIES REGARDING A POTENTIAL FOR VIOLENCE.

MILLIONS OF AMERICANS TRAVEL ABROAD EACH YEAR. SUCH TRAVEL IS NOT WITHOUT RISK. THE DEPARTMENT ALWAYS RECOMMENDS EXERCISING PRUDENCE AND COMMON SENSE WHEN TRAVELLING ABROAD.

Q.: IS THERE ANY WAY YOU QUANTIFY THE LEVEL OF PRECAUTION AS A --

A.: NO. THERE'S NO WAY I CAN DO THAT.

Q.: WELL, WHAT IS DIFFERENT, SPECIFICALLY?

A.: WELL, WHAT WE'VE SIMPLY DONE IS CALL PEOPLE'S ATTENTION TO THESE THREATS AND THAT PEOPLE BE INFORMED OF OUR CONCERNS ABOUT THEM, BUT THIS IS NOT A GENERAL TRAVEL ADVISORY, AS I HAVE SAID.

Q.: IF PEOPLE WERE PLANNING A VACATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, FOR EXAMPLE, THIS SUMMER -- AS YOU SAID, MANY MILLIONS OF PEOPLE DO TRAVEL IN THIS SEASON, AMERICANS DO TRAVEL -- WOULD YOU ADVISE THEM TO GO AHEAD WITH THEIR

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PLANS?

A.: AGAIN, I CAN'T MAKE GENERAL SWEEPING STATEMENTS. I THINK YOU'D HAVE TO LOOK AT THE SPECIFIC TRAVEL ADVISORIES THAT ARE ALREADY IN PLACE FOR VARIOUS ASPECTS. WE HAVE SAID THAT THEY SHOULD USE PRUDENCE AND CAUTION, NOTING THAT MILLIONS OF TRAVELLERS DO PROCEED WITH THEIR TRIPS. THIS IS NOT A GENERAL TRAVEL ADVISORY
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IN EVERY SENSE, BUT PEOPLE SHOULD SIMPLY CHECK WITH THE DEPARTMENTS FOR SPECIFIC TRAVEL ADVISORIES AND USE GOOD COMMON SENSE.

Q.: SINCE THERE'S NO GENERAL REGIONAL ADVISORY, COULD YOU LIST THE COUNTRIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST WHICH HAVE TRAVEL ADVISORIES IN EFFECT?

A.: I DON'T HAVE THAT INFORMATION WITH ME. YOU CAN CHECK WITH THE PRESS OFFICE. THEY HAVE LISTS OF ALL THOSE TRAVEL ADVISORIES AS WELL AS THE BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS WHICH ALWAYS IS READY TO ASSIST AMERICAN TRAVELERS.

Q.: HAVE ANY OF THOSE ADVISORIES CHANGED SINCE THE INCIDENT ON THE SUNDAY?

A.: NO.

Q.: PHYLLIS, DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT THE THREATS AGAINST THE HOSTAGES?

A.: IN REGARD TO THE QUESTION OF THE HOSTAGES, WE SEE NO LINK BETWEEN THE HOSTAGE ISSUE AND THE SHOOTING DOWN OF THE IRANIAN PLANE.

WE CONTINUE TO HOLD THE KIDNAPPERS FULLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF ALL THE HOSTAGES.

Q.: IS THE UNITED STATES CONSIDERING A REPARATIONS PACKAGE OF ANY KIND? HAVE YOU DONE INITIAL THINKING ON THAT ISSUE? HAVE YOU PRESENTED OPTIONS TO THE WHITE HOUSE?

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A.: THE WHOLE QUESTION OF TALKING ABOUT REPARATIONS/ COMPENSATION IS PREMATURE AT THIS POINT. THAT'S A QUESTION THAT CAN ONLY BE ADDRESSED WHEN WE HAVE ALL THE

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FACTS. THAT'S GOING TO COME ABOUT THROUGH THE INVESTIGATION THAT IS NOW PROCEEDING. I THINK YOU'RE AWARE THAT A NAVAL TEAM HAS LEFT TO GO TO THE GULF AREA. WE EXPECT THAT REPORT IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS. BUT UNTIL THEN, WE WON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THAT.

Q.: DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE PRINCIPLES ARE OR GUIDELINES ARE IN TERMS OF DETERMINING WHETHER OR NOT IT'S APPROPRIATE TO PAY SOME COMPENSATION?

A.: I'M NOT PREPARED AT THIS POINT TO DISCUSS THE PRINCIPLES OR ANYTHING INVOLVED. AS I SAY, THIS WHOLE QUESTION IS PREMATURE. WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO GET NOW ARE ALL THE FACTS. THAT WILL BE BROUGHT ABOUT THROUGH THE NAVAL INVESTIGATIVE PROCESS THAT'S UNDERWAY.

Q.: BUT THE UNITED STATES CALLS IT "A TRAGIC ACCIDENT." AS PRIMA FACIE, ONE WOULD THINK THAT OUR BASIC POSTURE WOULD BE THAT WE ARE WILLING TO CONSIDER THIS IN A SOMEWHAT MORE RECEPTIVE LANGUAGE THAN YOU ARE USING.

A.: MY LANGUAGE SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED ONE WAY OR THE OTHER. I'M SIMPLY SAYING IN THE TIMING NOW ON THIS QUESTION IS PREMATURE. WE HAVE EXPRESSED, FROM CERTAINLY THE PRESIDENT ON DOWN, OUR REGRETS ABOUT THIS TRAGEDY AND

THE LOSS OF INNOCENT CIVILIAN LIFE. WE ARE INVESTIGATING TO MAKE SURE WE HAVE THE FACTS AND KNOW EXACTLY WHAT'S HAPPENED, BUT THAT'S ALL THE FURTHER I'M PREPARED TO GO ON THAT TODAY.

Q.: BUT, PHYLLIS, THE QUESTION IS, WHAT OTHER FACTS DO
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YOU NEED? THE UNITED STATES DID IT; THE UNITED STATES ADMITS IT. THERE WAS INNOCENT LOSS OF LIFE. WHAT OTHER FACTS DO YOU NEED?

A.: WELL, I THINK THAT THERE HAVE BEEN LOTS OF QUESTIONS RAISED IN THE PRESS. I THINK YOU'RE AWARE OF ALL THOSE THINGS. EXACTLY, WE'RE INTERESTED IN KNOWING THE INSTRUCTIONS, THE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE RADAR. ALL THOSE QUESTIONS ARE BEING HANDLED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, AND I'M NOT PREPARED TO GO INTO THEM. OBVIOUSLY, THERE ARE QUESTIONS THAT REMAIN. WE'RE GOING TO GET THE ANSWERS TO THOSE QUESTIONS BEFORE DISCUSSING ANYTHING ABOUT THE QUESTION OF REPARATIONS.

Q.: YOU MENTIONED INSTRUCTIONS ON REPARATIONS.

A.: EXCUSE ME.

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Q.: IN THAT ANSWER, YOU SAID "INSTRUCTIONS."

A.: WELL, WE WERE TALKING ABOUT THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS OF WHAT CAME ABOUT ON THE SHIP AT THAT TIME. THEY'RE LOOKING AT THAT. THE OTHER -- OBVIOUSLY, THERE'S BEEN SOME NEW INFORMATION FROM SOME OTHER SHIPS IN THE AREA. THEY'RE TRYING TO COLLECT ALL THOSE FACTS. AND UNTIL THEY DO THAT, WE'RE NOT GOING TO SPECULATE ON THE QUESTION OF REPARATIONS.

Q.: IN DIRECT TERMS, IS THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CONSIDERING THE FACT THAT THERE'S A CHANCE THAT IRAN DIRECTED THIS COMMERCIAL AIRLINER TOWARD THE VINCENNES AND THAT'S WHAT'S BEHIND THIS?

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A.: I'M NOT IN ANY WAY PREPARED TO SPECULATE ON THAT.

Q.: WHAT ARE THOSE INSTRUCTIONS? WHAT ARE THOSE QUESTIONS THAT YOU LISTED A MOMENT AGO? WHY DO THEY BEAR AT ALL ON THE QUESTION OF REPARATIONS? THEY BEAR ON WHAT THE U.S. DID AND HOW IT WENT ABOUT IT AND SO ON, AND ALL OF THOSE QUESTIONS ARE OBVIOUSLY LEGITIMATE QUESTIONS. BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE CONNECTION TO REPARATIONS.

A.: I THINK THAT WE SIMPLY HAVE TO HAVE THE FACTS -- ALL THE FACTS -- THAT WE CAN GATHER ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED. THEN WE WILL DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF REPARATIONS. WE DON'T HAVE ALL THOSE FACTS. THAT'S WHY THE TEAM IS GOING OUT THERE, AND I JUST DON'T HAVE ANYTHING FURTHER ON IT.

Q.: HAS THERE BEEN A REQUEST FOR COMPENSATION OF ANY SORT FROM EITHER THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT OR FROM ANY PRIVATE CITIZENS?

A.: NOT THAT I'M AWARE OF, NO.

Q.: PHYLLIS, TWO QUESTIONS.

A.: YES. CONNIE.

Q.: THANK YOU. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE WASHINGTON POST REPORT THAT THE COMMANDER OF THE VINCENNES HAD ALLEGEDLY INTERFERED IN COMMERCIAL AIR TRAFFIC BEFORE?

A.: THERE HAS BEEN THIS QUESTION RAISED ABOUT ANOTHER INCIDENT WITH THOSE SHIPS, BUT I WOULD REFER YOU TO THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT FOR ANY QUESTIONS IN THAT REGARD.

Q.: ALSO, DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THE COMMUNIQUE

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THE U.S. SENT TO THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT BY WAY OF THE
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SWISS?

A.: WE HAVE CONVEYED A MESSAGE TO THE IRANIAN
GOVERNMENT. IN IT, WE EXPRESSED OUR DEEP REGRETS OVER
THE LOSS OF LIFE AND RELAYED THE CIRCUMSTANCES
SURROUNDING THE TRAGEDY. WE ALSO NOTED THAT IT WAS NOT
AN INTENTIONAL ACT TO SHOOT DOWN A CIVILIAN AIRLINER.

WE SAID THAT WE WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK FOR AN END TO THE
WAR AND WE HOPE THAT IRAN WOULD WORK TO END IT AS WELL.

Q.: WHEN WAS THIS SENT?

A.: I ASSUME THAT IT WAS SENT SUNDAY -- I DON'T HAVE THE
EXACT TIME OF WHEN IT WAS SENT -- THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT
OF SWITZERLAND.

Q.: WHO SENT IT? WHO IS IT FROM ON THE PART OF THE
UNITED STATES?

A.: IT'S FROM THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE
GOVERNMENT OF SWITZERLAND TO THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN.

Q.: IT'S FROM SECRETARY OF STATE SHULTZ OR THE WHITE
HOUSE, OR WHO SENT IT?

A.: I THINK ON THIS THAT YOU CAN ASSUME THAT IT IS A
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT.

Q.: HAVE YOU RECEIVED AN ANSWER FROM THE IRANIANS?

A.: THERE IS NO RESPONSE.

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Q.: PHYLLIS, GOING BACK TO THE REPARATIONS THING FOR A
MINUTE. WHEN THE STARK WAS ATTACKED BY THE IRAQIS, THEY
SUBSEQUENTLY SAID THEY WOULD PAY REPARATIONS. WHAT HAS
BECOME OF THAT? WAS AN AMOUNT EVER FIXED? AND HAVE THEY
PAID ANY OR ALL OF IT?

A.: I DON'T HAVE AN UPDATE ON THE QUESTION OF
COMPENSATION OR REPARATIONS FROM THE STARK INCIDENT. I
UNDERSTAND THAT THERE HAVE BEEN VARIOUS DISCUSSIONS GOING
ON WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN. I SIMPLY DON'T HAVE

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EXCUSE ME, IRAQ -- I DON'T HAVE A STATUS REPORT ON WHERE THAT STANDS.

Q.: CAN YOU GET ONE?

A.: I CAN SEE IF I CAN GET SOME INFORMATION FOR YOU ON THE STATUS OF THAT.

Q.: PHYLLIS, IN THE STATEMENT YOU MADE WAY BACK, "WE SEE NO LINK BETWEEN THE HOSTAGES AND THE SHOOTING DOWN OF THE IRANIAN..." I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THAT MEANS? ARE YOU SAYING NO ONE SHOULD LINK IT, OR ARE YOU SAYING WE DIDN'T SHOOT DOWN THE PLANE IN SOME WAY RELATED TO THE HOSTAGES SITUATION?

A.: WELL, CLEARLY, THE INCIDENT OF THE SHOOTING DOWN, AS I SAID, WAS NOT INTENTIONAL. IT WAS, IN OUR VIEW, NOT LINKED. IN OUR VIEW, THERE SHOULD BE NO LINKAGE IN THE SENSE THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO PUNISHMENT FOR HOSTAGES FOR WHAT HAPPENED IN THIS TRAGEDY WITH THE IRANIAN AIR BUS.

Q.: PHYLLIS, YOU SAID WE'RE GOING TO CONTINUE TO WORK FOR THE END OF THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR. ARE, IN FACT, ANY NEW STEPS CONTEMPLATED TOWARDS TRYING TO BRING ABOUT AN END?

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A.: I DON'T HAVE ANY SPECIFICS ON THE QUESTION OF NEW STEPS THAT ARE BEING TAKEN. BUT LET ME GO OVER A LITTLE BIT OF OUR GENERAL VIEW ON THIS.

I THINK THE TRAGEDY OF THE IRANIAN AIR BUS AND THE LOSS OF CIVILIAN LIFE UNDERSCORES THE DANGERS POSED BY CONTINUATION OF THE GULF WAR, THE ROOT CAUSE OF TENSION AND VIOLENCE IN THE AREA AND THE URGENCY OF BRINGING THIS SENSELESS CONFLICT TO AN EARLY END.

THE UNITED STATES HAS WORKED TIRELESSLY TO ACHIEVE A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE CONFLICT THROUGH IMPLEMENTATION OF U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 598 ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL LAST JULY, JUST ABOUT A YEAR AGO. WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY URGED APPROPRIATE FOLLOW-UP ACTION BY THE COUNCIL TO ENFORCE THIS RESOLUTION WHILE SUPPORTING THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S EXTENSIVE EFFORTS TO MEDIATE A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION.

REGRETTABLY, THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAS BEEN UNABLE TO AGREE ON FOLLOW-UP MEASURES. ALMOST ONE YEAR AFTER ITS ADOPTION, RESOLUTION 598 REMAINS UNIMPLEMENTED AND THE WAR DRAGS ON. WE CALL UPON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND PARTICULARLY THE MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO

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JOIN US IN OUR EFFORTS TO END THE GULF WAR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND RESTORE PEACE AND SECURITY TO THE REGION.

Q.: PHYLLIS, IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, THE MISSION OF THE FLEET -- OUR FLEET IN THE GULF -- IS TO PROTECT U.S. AND NEUTRAL SHIPPING FROM ATTACK BY BOTH SIDES. CAN YOU TELL US HOW SUCCESSFUL THAT MISSION HAS BEEN SO FAR? AND CAN YOU TELL US HOW WE WILL KNOW WHEN IT HAS
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SUCCEEDED TO A DEGREE THAT THE FLEET CAN WITHDRAW?

A.: I DON'T HAVE ANY SPECIFIC EVALUATIONS. I'M NOT PREPARED TO GIVE YOU THE STATISTICS ON INCIDENTS IN THE GULF AND THE SAFETY THERE. I THINK SOME OF THOSE QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED AT THE WHITE HOUSE THIS MORNING.

BUT I THINK IT IS USEFUL TO GO OVER AGAIN OUR POLICY IN THE GULF. FIRST, AS WE'VE REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED, OUR BASIC THRUST, OUR HOPE, OUR PURPOSE IN THE GULF, IS TO BRING THE WAR TO AN END DIPLOMATICALLY THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS. WE REMAIN INTENSIVELY INVOLVED IN EFFORTS TO END THE WAR THROUGH THE FRAMEWORK OF U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 598.

SECONDLY, WE HAVE TALKED ABOUT OUR VITAL INTERESTS IN THE GULF. WE ARE PLEDGED TO UPHOLD AND DEFEND THESE INTERESTS AND TO HELP PROTECT THE SECURITY OF OUR FRIENDS IN THE GULF. WE HAVE INCREASED OUR NAVAL PRESENCE IN THE GULF TO ACCOMPLISH THESE AIMS. AS LONG AS THERE IS A DANGER OF THE WAR EXPANDING AND U.S. AND WESTERN

INTERESTS AS WELL AS THE SECURITY OF OUR GULF FRIENDS ARE THREATENED, WE WILL MAINTAIN OUR HEIGHTENED PRESENCE THERE.

AGAIN, LET ME RE-EMPHASIZE: THE WAR IS THE SOURCE OF THE TENSION AND THE DANGER IN THE REGION. WE MUST END IT THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS. IT IS AN ESSENTIAL OBJECTIVE.

Q.: IF I CAN JUST FOLLOW UP ON THAT. WHAT I HEARD YOU SAY WAS THAT AS LONG AS THERE IS A DANGER OF THE WAR EXPANDING, OUR PRESENCE WILL BE MAINTAINED. I DIDN'T HEAR YOU MENTION ANYTHING ABOUT PROTECTION OF SHIPPING. DOES THAT MEAN THAT OUR --
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A.: AGAIN, WE'VE GONE OVER THAT AT DEFENSE. I THINK THAT THE IMPRESSION, IT'S NOT JUST OUR FRIENDS BUT THERE IS -- WHEN WE HAVE OUR INTERESTS TO PROTECT THERE, AS LONG AS OUR FRIENDS ARE THREATENED, WE ARE GOING TO MAINTAIN OUR PRESENCE IN THE GULF.

Q.: MY QUESTION IS, WOULD THE INFERENCE FROM YOUR STATEMENT BE THAT OVER TIME -- WOULD IT BE A LEGITIMATE INFERENCE THAT OVER TIME, THE MISSION OF THE FLEET HAS EXPANDED FROM ITS ORIGINAL STATED MISSION, WHICH WAS TO PROTECT NEUTRAL SHIPPING, TO THESE RATHER BROADER AIMS TO HELP BRING THE WAR TO AN END, TO DEFEND OUR FRIENDS IN THE AREA, AND TO PREVENT THE WAR FROM EXPANDING?

A.: NO. I THINK THAT THE BROADER AIMS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THERE. I MEAN, THAT WAS THE PURPOSE FOR THE PRESENCE. I DON'T THINK YOU'RE GETTING THE SEQUENCE EXACTLY CORRECT IN THAT THE BROADER AIMS HAVE BEEN THERE. WE HAVE PLACED OUR FLEET, OUR HEIGHTENED PRESENCE IN THE GULF, TO PROTECT OUR INTERESTS, TO CARRY OUT THESE AIMS. WE'VE TALKED ABOUT A SLIGHT CHANGE IN THE RULES OF ENGAGEMENT, EXPANSION.

I DON'T THINK IT'S CORRECT TO SAY THAT THERE HAS BEEN ANY CHANGE. OUR POLICY HAS BEEN CONSISTENT OVER THE PAST YEAR. OUR OBJECTIVES REMAIN AS THEY HAVE BEEN.

Q.: HAS OUR POLICY BORNE ANY POSITIVE FRUIT THAT YOU CAN POINT TO?

A.: AGAIN, I'M NOT AT THIS POINT PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE STATISTICS OF WHAT'S HAPPENED TO SHIPPING. I THINK THAT
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OUR POLICY HAS BORNE FRUIT IN THE GULF. I THINK OUR INTERESTS HAVE BEEN DEFENDED. I THINK OUR FRIENDS HAVE BEEN DEFENDED. LET US GET BACK TO THE ORIGINAL PROBLEM.

IT IS THE WAR AND THE PURPOSE REMAINS TO BRING THE WAR TO AN END.

Q.: PHYLLIS, I THINK IT MIGHT BE USEFUL, TOO, IN LIGHT OF THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, IF YOU WOULD RECAP WHAT THE U.S. DIPLOMATIC STANCE TOWARD IRAN IS? BECAUSE IF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES ASKS -- TELLS IRAN HOW NICE IT WOULD BE IF THE WAR WOULD END, IT SOUNDS LIKE IT'S NO LONGER A MATTER OF NOT COMMUNICATING WITH IRAN. IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE ON THE WAY TO A NORMAL DIALOGUE WITH A COUNTRY YOU SAY YOU'RE NOT TALKING TO.

Q.: WE HAVE DISCUSSED THIS QUESTION OF CONTACTS WITH THE IRANIANS SEVERAL TIMES. HERE, OVER THE PAST SEVERAL

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MONTHS. NOTHING ON THAT HAS CHANGED.

LET ME REPEAT, IN GENERAL, THAT WE HAVE NO DIRECT CONTACTS WITH IRANIANS. WE HAVE HAD SEVERAL INDIRECT CONTACTS. WE'VE TALKED ABOUT THIS. WE'VE TALKED ABOUT MESSAGES THAT HAVE BEEN PASSED THROUGH FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS AND THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT OF SWITZERLAND, AS WE SAID TODAY, WHEN WE HAVE PASSED THIS MESSAGE TO IRAN.

WE HAVE ALSO SAID -- AND I REPEAT -- THAT WE ARE READY AND WILLING TO TALK TO ANYONE ABOUT THE SAFETY AND THE RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES; THAT WE ARE READY TO ENGAGE WITH AN AUTHORITATIVE IRANIAN REPRESENTATIVE ON THIS QUESTION. SO FAR THESE EFFORTS HAVE NOT BORNE FRUIT.

WHAT IS ESSENTIAL TO REMEMBER IN ALL OF THIS IS THAT WE WILL NOT MAKE ANY CONCESSIONS AND WE WILL NOT MAKE ANY DEALS FOR THE HOSTAGES.

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Q.: I'M SORRY, PHYLLIS. YOU'VE COVERED AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF GROUND. WHEN YOU TALKED ABOUT YOU'RE WILLING TO TALK -- LET ME SEE IF I UNDERSTAND THIS. THE UNITED STATES IS WILLING TO TALK TO AN AUTHORITATIVE IRANIAN REPRESENTATIVE ABOUT WHAT? ABOUT THE WAR?

A.: WE HAVE USED THIS PHRASE IN THE QUESTION OF TALKING ABOUT THE SAFETY AND THE RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES; THAT WE WERE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE SAFETY AND RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES WITH AUTHORITATIVE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT.

Q.: FINE. BUT THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE SPEAKS OF A LARGER ISSUE, IF YOU DON'T MIND -- A WAR BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ.

A.: YES.

Q.: AND HE HAS AN APPEAL THERE TO IRAN TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT WAR. THAT SOUNDS LIKE THE UNITED STATES IS TALKING TO IRAN, WHICH IT HASN'T DONE. I DON'T CARE IF YOU TALK TO THEM WITH A MEGAPHONE OR, YOU KNOW, THROUGH THE SWISS, BUT YOU'RE TALKING TO IRAN, AND I WONDERED, IS THE U.S. GOING TO -- WILLING TO TALK TO AN AUTHORITATIVE IRANIAN REPRESENTATIVE ABOUT ENDING THAT WAR?

A.: THAT HAS ALWAYS BEEN OUR POSITION: THAT WE HAVE STRESSED THAT WE WANT THIS WAR TO BE BROUGHT TO AN END. WE FEEL THAT THIS MUST COME ABOUT THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS. THERE WAS A PERIOD, IF YOU WILL RECALL, LAST SUMMER WHEN THERE WERE REPRESENTATIVES OF IRAN AT THE UNITED NATIONS. WE AT THAT POINT HAD SAID THAT WE WOULD BE

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PREPARED TO DISCUSS VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE WAR SITUATION
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WITH THEM. THAT REMAINS OUR POLICY. THERE HAS BEEN NO
CHANGE IN THAT.

Q.: CAN I ASK YOU ONE LAST THING, AND THEN I'LL GET UP.

A.: YES.

Q.: CAN YOU CHARACTERIZE TODAY -- BECAUSE WE'VE HEARD IT
MANY TIMES BEFORE, BUT THINGS HAVE HAPPENED SINCE -- WHAT
IS IRAN'S -- WHAT IS THE U.S. VIEW OF IRAN'S POSITION ON
THE CEASE-FIRE RESOLUTION? STALLING, VACILLATION,
REJECTION, WHAT?

A.: WE HAVE SAID THAT IRAN HAS BEEN THE RECALCITRANT
PARTY IN BRINGING THE WAR TO A NEGOTIATED END. WE HAVE
URGED THEM TO ENTER INTO A NEGOTIATION TO BRING IT ABOUT
UNDER TERMS OF RESOLUTION 598 OF THE U.N. SECURITY
COUNCIL.

Q.: BACK TO THE HOSTAGES FOR ONE -- PHYLLIS --

A.: WAIT A MINUTE. TOO MANY VOICES. LET'S GET THIS ONE.

Q.: SINCE SUNDAY'S MESSAGE TO IRAN, HAS THERE BEEN ANY
ADDITIONAL ATTEMPTS BY THE ADMINISTRATION TO CONTACT THE
IRANIAN GOVERNMENT?

A.: NO. WE HAVE SENT THAT MESSAGE, PERIOD. THAT WAS ALL.

Q.: PHYLLIS, WHAT REACTION, IF ANY, HAVE YOU HAD FROM
WHAT YOU CALL YOUR "FRIENDS" IN THE GULF? HOW ARE THE
GULF COUNTRIES REACTING TO WHAT'S HAPPENED?

A.: I THINK IT'S A LITTLE EARLY TO HAVE A DEFINITIVE
REACTION. THERE ARE MANY COUNTRIES THAT ARE ISSUING
VARIOUS STATEMENTS. A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENTS HAVE
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EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THIS TRAGIC LOSS OF INNOCENT LIFE
IS A GRIM RESULT OF THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR. THE DISASTER
VIVIDLY POINTS OUT THE NEED TO WORK TO END THE WAR
IMMEDIATELY THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS. CERTAINLY, WE SHARE
THIS VIEW, AND WE WILL CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TOWARD THAT
END.

Q.: DO YOU HAVE ANY REACTION

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Q.: HAVE ANY OF THE COUNTRIES BEEN MORE SPECIFICALLY AGAINST? I MEAN, HAS ANYBODY THAT YOU'RE WILLING TO SAY WHICH COUNTRY IT IS THAT'S COME UP WITH ANYTHING --

A.: NO. I THINK YOU'D HAVE TO CHECK THE RANGE OF REMARKS THAT PEOPLE HAVE MADE. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING DEFINITIVE.

Q.: ANYTHING ON THE SOVIET REACTION, SPECIFICALLY GERASIMOV SAYING, "WELL, SUNDAY'S INCIDENT WAS WORSE THAN KAL-007, BECAUSE KAL-007 WAS AT NIGHT, AND IT WAS OVER A SENSITIVE AREA OF THE SOVIET UNION, IN CONTRAST TO WHAT HAPPENED SUNDAY."

A.: NO. I DON'T HAVE ANY REACTION TO THOSE STATEMENTS. I THINK THE COMPARISON HAS BEEN ADDRESSED BY ADMIRAL CROWE AND OTHERS. I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER ON IT.

Q.: PHYLLIS, IN LIGHT OF THE SHOOT-DOWN, WHAT IS THE ADMINISTRATION'S CURRENT POSITION ON HOW THE U.S. PRESENCE IN THE GULF IS COVERED BY THE WAR POWERS ACT?

A.: THE QUESTION OF THE WAR POWERS ACT HAS BEEN ADDRESSED AT THE WHITE HOUSE, AND A COPY OF A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT TO THE SENATE, THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM OF THE
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SENATE, WAS DISTRIBUTED. I WOULD REFER YOU TO THAT DOCUMENT FOR THE DEFINITIVE STATEMENT ON THAT.

Q.: PHYLLIS, WHY DON'T WE HAVE A FILING BREAK.

A.: YES.

Q.: PHYLLIS, HAVE THERE BEEN ANY -- ARE THERE ANY DIPLOMATIC ENVOYS HEADING FOR THE MIDDLE EAST AT THIS POINT, EITHER IN CONNECTION WITH THE GULF POLICY OR IN CONNECTION WITH THIS INCIDENT --

A.: NO. THERE ARE NO ENVOYS ON THEIR WAY. AS WE SAID, THERE IS THIS NAVAL INVESTIGATIVE TEAM THAT IS ON ITS WAY TO THE GULF, BUT THAT'S ALL.

Q.: AND DOES THE ADMINISTRATION PLAN TO CALL FOR OR WOULD IT ACQUIESCE TO AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION OF THE EVENT THAT LED UP TO THIS INCIDENT, OR DOES THE ADMINISTRATION BELIEVE THE NAVAL INVESTIGATION IS THE DEFINITIVE INVESTIGATION?

A.: WE UNDERSTAND THAT IRAN HAS FORMALLY ASKED FOR THAT THE QUESTION OF THE DESTRUCTION OF IRAN AIR FLIGHT 655 BE

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TAKEN UP BY THE ICAO COUNCIL. THIS IS THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION IN MONTREAL. ACCORDINGLY, THE ICAO COUNCIL PRESIDENT HAS NOTIFIED ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF IRAN'S REQUEST. IT TAKES A MAJORITY OF THE 33-MEMBER COUNCIL TO DECIDE ON THE CONVENING OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THAT COUNCIL.

WE WILL COOPERATE IN ALL APPROPRIATE RESPECTS WITH ICAO. IN ADDITION, WE'RE CONDUCTING OUR OWN INVESTIGATION THAT YOU KNOW ABOUT. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HOPES THAT IRAN WILL COOPERATE WITH ALL INVESTIGATIONS, INCLUDING BY PROVIDING UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

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THE FLIGHT DATA AND COCKPIT VOICE RECORDERS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT ITEMS THAT MAY BE FOUND.

Q.: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON --

Q.: DOES THAT MEAN THAT --

A.: EXCUSE ME. LET ME --

Q.: ON THAT POINT, DOES THAT MEAN THAT THE U.S. FAVORS THE CONVENING -- WILL VOTE FOR AND FAVORS THE CONVENING OF A SPECIAL INVESTIGATION BY ICAO?

A.: I DON'T HAVE -- I THINK THAT'S A LITTLE PREMATURE. WHAT WE'VE SAID, THAT WE UNDERSTAND THERE HAS BEEN A CALL. IT WILL BE DECIDED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL. WE SAID THAT WE WOULD COOPERATE WITH ALL APPROPRIATE ASPECTS.

Q.: I THOUGHT IT WAS APPROVED BY A MAJORITY OF THE 33 MEMBERS.

A.: YES. IT TAKES A MAJORITY TO DECIDE ON THE CONVENING.

Q.: IS THE U.S. ONE OF THOSE 33?

A.: I DON'T HAVE THE ANSWER FOR THAT.

Q.: PHYLLIS, IS THE UNITED STATES COMMENTING ON THE CALL FOR A SPECIAL U.N. SESSION WHICH WAS MADE THIS MORNING IN NEW YORK?

A.: WE HAVE SEEN THOSE REPORTS MADE BY THE IRANIAN UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

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AMBASSADOR TO THE U.N. THAT HE WAS GOING TO CALL FOR

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THAT. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THAT OFFICIALLY HAS BEEN DONE WITH THE U.N., AND I --

Q.: HE SAID HE HAD.

A.: WELL, AGAIN IT JUST HAPPENED. I DON'T HAVE ANY REACTION TO THAT. IT SEEMS AN APPROPRIATE THING FOR THEM TO DO.

Q.: WE DO FAVOR A SPECIAL SESSION?

A.: AGAIN, I'M NOT COMMENTING ON OUR POSITION ON THAT. I THINK -- ALL I'M SAYING IS I THINK IT'S AN UNDERSTANDABLE ACTION ON THEIR PART.

Q.: ALONG WITH THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO IRAN, WERE THERE CONCOMITANT MESSAGES TO THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GULF REGION -- THE OTHER STATES IN THE REGION?

A.: YES. AGAIN, I THINK THAT QUESTION WAS RAISED OVER AT THE WHITE HOUSE THIS MORNING, AND THERE WAS TALK ABOUT THE GOVERNMENTS WITH WHOM WE'VE BEEN IN TOUCH. CERTAINLY, WE HAVE CIRCULATED THE STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT, AND THE STATEMENT MADE BY ADMIRAL CROWE ON JULY 3.

Q.: MAY WE HAVE A TEXT OF THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO IRAN?

A.: THAT HAS NOT BEEN MADE PUBLIC, IN KEEPING WITH OUR GENERAL POLICY ON DIPLOMATIC MEASURES -- DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS.

Q.: ON ANOTHER ISSUE OF TERRORISM, DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT TODAY ON THE BEGINNING OF THE TRIAL IN GERMANY OF THE SUSPECTED HIJACKER?

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A.: ARE WE ALL THROUGH WITH THIS? ALL RIGHT.

Q.: GIVE US A MINUTE.

A.: AS OF TODAY, JULY 5, THE CASE OF MOHAMMED HAMADEI IS NOW A MATTER IN LITIGATION BEFORE THE COURTS OF THE

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY. WE WILL HAVE NO FURTHER COMMENT UNTIL THE COURT HAS COMPLETED ITS ADJUDICATION. OUR POSITION ON THE CASE REMAINS AS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY STATED IT.

Q.: IS THE U.S. IN GENERAL PLEASED, THOUGH, THAT A TRIAL OF THIS SORT IS GETTING UNDERWAY?

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A.: WELL, CERTAINLY, I THINK THAT OUR POSITION HAD BEEN VERY CLEAR: THAT WE WANTED HIM TRIED FOR WHAT HAD HAPPENED ON TWA 847, PARTICULARLY IN THAT HIJACKING THE MURDER OF OUR YOUNG NAVY ENLISTED MAN, STETHAM -- THE HIJACKING, THE HOSTAGE-TAKING, AS WELL AS THE CRIMES COMMITTED IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY.

WE HAD HAD ASSURANCES THAT THE TRIAL WOULD BE CONDUCTED BY THEM, AND CERTAINLY WE MUST FEEL GRATIFIED THAT IT HAS BEGUN.

Q.: NEW SUBJECT.

A.: YES.

Q.: HAVE YOU ANNOUNCED THAT YOU HAVE ANY DETAILS ON THE IMPENDING VISIT OF THE HUNGARIAN CHIEF OF STATE? HIS
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NAME IS GROSZ.

A.: YES. WHILE I DON'T HAVE ANY SPECIFIC DETAILS ON HIS TRIP, PRIME MINISTER GROSZ WILL SPEND ABOUT TWO WEEKS IN THE UNITED STATES IN LATE JULY. HE WILL VISIT SEVERAL MAJOR U.S. CITIES. HE WILL MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT, KEY CABINET MEMBERS AND CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS AS WELL AS VARIOUS BUSINESS AND CIVIC LEADERS.

Q.: PHYLLIS, DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE REPORT THAT CERTAIN SENIOR PLO OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN INVITED TO THE UNITED STATES AND ARE APPLYING FOR VISAS?

A.: NO. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT EITHER.

Q.: ONE MORE TIDBIT ON THE IRAN SHOOT-DOWN. YOU SAID THAT YOU HOPED IRAN WOULD TURN OVER THE COCKPIT FLIGHT RECORDERS TO THE ICAO INVESTIGATION --

A.: YES.

Q.: -- OR TO THE U.S.?

A.: NO, NO. TO THE ICAO INVESTIGATION.

Q.: OKAY. WHAT WOULD YOU EXPECT THOSE RECORDERS TO REVEAL?

A.: I'M IN NO POSITION TO --

Q.: WHAT KINDS OF INFORMATION WOULD YOU EXPECT TO GET FROM THEM?

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A.: -- TO SPECULATE, BUT THAT'S, I THINK, THE KIND OF INFORMATION THAT IN ANY INVESTIGATION OF A TRAGEDY OR AN ACCIDENT OF AIRLINERS -- THAT'S ALWAYS THE KIND OF THING
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PEOPLE LOOK FOR, FOR CLUES OF WHAT HAPPENED. AS I SAY, IT GOES TO OUR VIEW THAT WE WANT TO GET ALL THE FACTS OUT ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AND TO HAVE AS MUCH INFORMATION AS HUMANLY POSSIBLE.

Q.: YOU'LL RECALL THAT THERE WAS A RATHER EXTENSIVE SEARCH FOR THE COCKPIT RECORDERS OF THE KAL FLIGHT. IS THE U.S. ENGAGED IN ITS SEARCH -- IN A SEARCH FOR THE COCKPIT RECORDERS OF THIS FLIGHT IN THE GULF NOW?

A.: NOT THAT I'M AWARE OF. I THINK ALL THE RESCUE AND RECOVERY PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN.

Q.: I JUST WANT TO TRY TO RECAP. YOU'RE SAYING THAT THE INCIDENT OCCURRED AS AN OUTCOME OF THE GULF WAR, NOT AS AN OUTCOME OF THE U.S. NAVAL PRESENCE. SO THAT THE INCIDENT IN NO WAY CALLS INTO QUESTION THE U.S. NAVAL PRESENCE.

A.: WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE ROOT CAUSE, THE CREATION OF THE TENSION, THE SITUATION IN THE GULF. THAT CLEARLY IS THE WAR BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ, AND I THINK YOU HAVE TO KEEP THAT IN MIND. WE HAVE TALKED ABOUT THIS INCIDENT WHICH IS AN OUTGROWTH OF THE TENSION IN THE AREA THAT COMES OUT OF THAT WAR. I THINK THAT THE ASSUMPTIONS THAT YOU HAD PUT IN YOUR STATEMENT ARE NOT ENTIRELY CORRECT, AND I WANT TO BE VERY CLEAR THAT THE CAUSE, THE ROOT CAUSE OF THE WHOLE SITUATION, IS THE CONTINUATION OF THE WAR. THAT'S WHAT MUST BE BROUGHT TO AN END.

Q.: WELL, THEN AGAIN JUST TO NAIL IT DOWN: IS THE NAVAL PRESENCE AND THE GULF POLICY YOU ENUNCIATED -- ARE THESE
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UNDER HIGH-LEVEL REVIEW AT THIS TIME?

A.: WE HAVE ALWAYS STATED THAT OUR POLICIES AND OUR POSITION IN THE GULF REMAINS UNDER REVIEW. THAT'S

PERFECTLY CLEAR; IT ALWAYS HAS BEEN. THERE'S BEEN NO CHANGE ON THAT. WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO DO IN OUR POLICY IS
BRING THE WAR TO AN END. AND THEN WE'VE TALKED ABOUT THE

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OTHER COROLLARIES THAT COME FROM THAT.

Q.: ONE MORE QUESTION ON THE HOSTAGES, PLEASE, PHYLLIS. THERE WAS A SPECIFIC TELEPHONE CALL MADE TODAY BY A GROUP CLAIMING TO BE THE ISLAMIC JIHAD. THERE WAS A SPECIFIC AREA OF BEIRUT MENTIONED AND A TIME. DOES THE UNITED STATES CONSIDER THAT THREAT CREDIBLE?

A.: WE HAD BEEN AWARE OF THIS CALL, THESE FACTS. THERE IS SIMPLY NO WAY THAT WE CAN VERIFY THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE CALL AT THIS TIME. LET ME SAY AGAIN THAT WE CONTINUE TO HOLD THE KIDNAPPERS AND THEIR PATRONS FULLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF THE HOSTAGES.

Q.: MORE GENERALLY, DO YOU THINK THAT THEIR SAFETY IS IN ANY GREATER DANGER NOW?

A.: THERE IS SIMPLY NO WAY I CAN SPECULATE ON THAT. I GO BACK TO MY EARLIER STATEMENT THAT IN OUR VIEW, CERTAINLY, THERE SHOULD BE NO LINK BETWEEN THE HOSTAGE ISSUE AND THE SHOOTING DOWN OF THE IRANIAN PLANE.

Q.: PHYLLIS, WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "OUR POLICY IS ALWAYS UNDER REVIEW"? I MEAN --

A.: WELL, WHAT I'M SAYING ON THAT IS POLICIES ARE NOT WRIT IN STONE, AND MOST OF OUR POLICIES IN THIS BUILDING REMAIN UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW. WE WANT TO SEE IF THEY'RE

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CORRECT. THAT'S PERFECTLY NORMAL. WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS THAT POLICIES SUCH AS THIS REMAIN UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW. THAT'S NORMAL PRACTICE.

Q.: WELL, DOES AN EVENT LIKE THIS CAUSE A SPECIAL REVIEW OF POLICY OR --

A.: WELL, AGAIN, I THINK ADMIRAL CROWE ADDRESSED THAT ISSUE ON SUNDAY WHEN HE GAVE HIS STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS, AND I'D REFER YOU TO WHAT HE HAD TO SAY ABOUT --

Q.: WELL, HE TALKED ABOUT REVIEWING THE RULES OF ENGAGEMENT, AND I'M ASKING ABOUT WHETHER THERE'S A REVIEW OF POLICY, A SPECIAL REVIEW OF POLICY IN THE WAKE OF THIS.

A.: I DON'T BELIEVE IN THE SENSE OF HOW YOU'VE ASKED THE QUESTION THAT THERE IS A REVIEW IN THAT SENSE OF OUR POLICY IN THE GULF. OUR POSITION REMAINS FIRM. WE HAVE

INTERESTS THERE. WE INTEND TO PROTECT THEM. OUR POLICY REMAINS FIRM, AND OUR PRESENCE IN THE GULF WILL REMAIN FIRM AS LONG AS THE THREATS TO OUR INTERESTS REMAIN THERE.

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Q.: THEN THERE IS NO REVIEW.

A.: DAVID, ARE WE GOING TO GET CAUGHT IN A SEMANTIC DISCUSSION OF THIS? WHAT WE'VE SAID IS OUR POLICY REMAINS FIRM, BUT OUR POLICIES ALSO REMAIN UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW.

Q.: PHYLLIS, REALIZING, OF COURSE, THE SECRETARY WILL BE CONTINUOUSLY INFORMED OF EVENTS IN THIS THING WHILE HE'S ON HIS TRIP, BUT WHO HAS BEEN DESIGNATED? IS IT
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WHITEHEAD OR ARMACOST OR MURPHY? WHO'S BEEN DESIGNATED AS THE POINT MAN FOR HANDLING ALL THE INFORMATION?

A.: DURING THE ABSENCE OF THE SECRETARY, JOHN WHITEHEAD IS THE ACTING SECRETARY. THE DEPARTMENT CONTINUES TO FUNCTION IN ITS NORMAL PROCEDURE, USING ALL THE FACILITIES AND ALL THE HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

Q.: I BELIEVE IT WAS ADMIRAL CROWE ON SUNDAY, HE SAID THERE WERE NO AWACS IN THE AIR. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THAT?

A.: NO. I DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THOSE OPERATIONAL DETAILS; THAT ALL OF THOSE WOULD HAVE TO BE REFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

Q.: THANK YOU.

A.: THANK YOU. WHITEHEAD

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E.O.12356: DECL. GADR

TAGS: PREL, MOPS, PROP, MY, IR, US

SUBJECT: MALAYSIAN REACTION TO U.S. SHOOTDOWN OF

IRANIAN PASSENGER JET

1. (C) SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH THE GOM HAS NOT MADE AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT REGARDING THE SHOOTDOWN BY THE US NAVY OF AN IRANIAN AIRLINER, THE STORY HAS BEEN ON THE FRONT PAGES OF MOST PAPERS HERE FOR TWO DAYS AND NEWSPAPERS GENERALLY REFLECTIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION CONTAIN ARTICLES SHARPLY CRITICAL OF THE US. IN LINE WITH ITS PAST PRACTICE ON EVENTS IN THE PERSIAN GULF, THE GOM WILL LIKELY VOICE ITS OPINION THROUGH ITS MANAGEMENT OF PRESS COVERAGE RATHER THAN THROUGH A DIRECT STATEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) NEWSPAPERS IN THE NEW STRAITS TIMES GROUP,

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WHICH ARE OWNED BY UMNO AND THEREFORE INDICATIVE OF GOVERNMENT VIEWS, HAVE TAKEN AN EXTREMELY NEGATIVE STANCE ON THE SHOOTDOWN OF THE IRANIAN JET. THE EMBASSY IS SENDING BY SEPTTEL EXTRACTS FROM EDITORIAL COMMENT IN LOCAL NEWSPAPERS; THE NEW STRAITS TIMES COMMENTED THAT AMERICA'S "HANDS ARE ONCE AGAIN STAINED WITH THE BLOOD OF INNOCENT PEOPLE." BERITA HARIAN, ANOTHER NST-GROUP PAPER, BALANCED ITS STRONG CRITICISM OF THE U.S. ACTION WITH A CALL FOR THE INTERNATIONAL

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COMMUNITY TO RENEW EFFORTS TO PREVENT AIRLINE PASSENGERS FROM BECOMING VICTIMS OF MILITARY SHOOTDOWNS OR TERRORIST BOMBS. MALAYSIA'S LARGEST-CIRCULATING NEWSPAPER, UTUSAN MALAYSIA, WHICH MAINTAINS A RELATIVELY INDEPENDENT EDITORIAL BOARD DESPITE PARTIAL UMNO OWNERSHIP, ASSERTED THAT THE IRANIAN JET WAS SHOT DOWN "INTENTIONALLY, TO SEEK REVENGE."

3. (U) THE NEGATIVE EDITORIALS WERE COUPLED WITH A SELECTIVE INCLUSION OF WIRE SERVICE ARTICLES. FULLY REPORTED WERE ARTICLES WHICH DESCRIBED THE TECHNICAL SOPHISTICATION OF THE AEGIS AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM. BOTH THE NEW STRAITS TIMES AND UTUSAN MALAYSIA OMITTED A WIRE SERVICE STORY CONTAINING U.S. STATEMENTS ABOUT THE ODD BEHAVIOR OF THE IRANIAN JET AS WELL AS STORIES REPORTING DEFENSE OF THE U.S. ACTION BY MARGARET THATCHER AND THE LOW-KEY REACTION BY ARAB STATES. THE NEW STRAITS TIMES INCLUDED A NEGATIVELY-WORDED LIST OF "PAST MILITARY ACTIONS BY REAGAN," AND DEVOTED A SEPARATE FRONT-PAGE STORY TO A STATEMENT BY THE IRANIAN EMBASSY HERE.

4. (U) COVERAGE IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE STAR WAS LESS

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HARSHLY CRITICAL, HAD THE FULLEST WIRE-SERVICE COVERAGE, AND HAS THUS FAR NOT INCLUDED THE STAR'S EDITORIAL COMMENT. TELEVISION COVERAGE WAS CONFINED TO THE FOREIGN NEWS SECTION IN THE LATTER HALF OF NEWS SHOWS AND THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWS SHOW INCLUDED FILM OF A DEFENSE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINING WHY THE U.S. SHIP BELIEVED THE JET WAS HOSTILE.

5. (C) COMMENT: WHILE THE GOM HAS BEEN WARY OF IRAN AND THE POSSIBLE INFLUENCE IT MIGHT HAVE ON THE ISLAMIC OPPOSITION PARTY, PAS, IT IS UNLIKELY TO TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN ATTEMPTING TO PUT THIS INCIDENT IN ANY KIND OF PERSPECTIVE. SEVERAL SENIOR GOM OFFICIALS AND POLITICIANS ATTENDING OUR 4TH OF JULY RECEPTION, HOWEVER, COMMENTED PRIVATELY THAT, WHILE THE LOSS OF LIVES WAS TRAGIC, THEY UNDERSTOOD U.S. OBJECTIVES IN THE GULF. WE ARE NONETHELESS LIKELY TO BE IN FOR A STRETCH OF CRITICISM AND DEMONSTRATIONS. A FIVE MAN DELEGATION FROM PAS ATTEMPTED TO PRESENT A PETITION TO THE AMBASSADOR THIS AFTERNOON, BUT LEFT BEFORE IT COULD BE TURNED OVER TO AN EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE. WE WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW CLOSELY THE GOM OFFICAL AND MEDIA REACTION TO THE INCIDENT.

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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: N/A
SUBJ: CHINA MEDIA REACTION

1. CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN CONDEMNS
DOWNING OF IRANIAN JETLINER

2. --COMMENTARY ON IRAN AIR TRAGEDY

1. THE JULY 5 DOMESTIC EDITION OF PEOPLE'S DAILY
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(CIRC. 5 MILLION) AND OVERSEAS EDITION (CIRC.
300,000) AND ENGLISH-LANGUAGE CHINA DAILY (CIRC.
150,000) ON PAGE ONE, BEIJING DAILY (CIRC. 600,000)
AND GUANGMING DAILY (CIRC. 1.2 MILLION) ON PAGE FOUR
CARRIED A STRAIGHT NEWS REPORT ENTITLED: "CHINESE
FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN CONDEMNS THE U.S. FOR
SHOOTING DOWN IRANIAN JETLINER." EXCERPTS FOLLOW:

A CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN YESTERDAY

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CONDEMNED THE U.S. FOR DOWNING AN IRANIAN JETLINER WITH 290 PEOPLE ABOARD.

"WE WERE SHOCKED TO LEARN THAT A U.S. WARSHIP USED MISSILES TO SHOOT DOWN AN IRANIAN AIRLINER IN THE GULF REGION, CAUSING THE DEATH OF THE 290 PEOPLE ON BOARD. WE CONDEMN THIS ACTION AND EXPRESS OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE VICTIMS

2. THE JULY 5 ENGLISH-LANGUAGE CHINA DAILY ON PAGE FOUR CARRIED A COMMENTARY ENTITLED: "AIR TRAGEDY." EXCERPTS FOLLOW:

THE WHOLE WORLD IS SHOCKED BY THE TRAGIC DEATHS OF 290 INNOCENT PEOPLE, INCLUDING MANY CHILDREN AND BABIES, ON BOARD AN IRANIAN AIRBUS JETLINER WHICH WAS SHOT DOWN BY U.S. CRUISER VINCENNES OVER THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ ON SUNDAY.

THIS MARKS THE MOST ATROCIOUS INCIDENT IN THE HISTORY OF A CIVIL AIRCRAFT DESTROYED IN MILITARY ACTION.

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT EXPRESSED "DEEP REGRET" OVER THE LOSS OF LIVES, BUT DEFENDED THE SHOOTING AS "PROPER
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DEFENSIVE ACTION" IN AN EXCUSE THAT THE AIRLINER WAS TAKEN AS A JET FIGHTER APPROACHING THE NAVY CRUISER.

OBTVIOUSLY IT IS NOT ENOUGH JUST TO SAY "SORRY" OVER THIS UNPRECEDENTED MAN-MADE CATASTROPHE...

THE MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE SYSTEM ON BOARD THE USS IS HIGHLY SOPHISTACTED...HOW CAN PEOPLE BE EXPECTED TO COMPREHEND, THEREFORE, ITS FAILURE TO DISTINGUISH A WIDE-BODIED COMMERCIAL AIRLINER FROM A TWO-SEAT FIGHTER JET?

THE JULY 5 DOMESTIC EDITION OF PEOPLE'S DAILY ON PAGE SIX CARRIED A COMMENTARY ENTITLED: "THE 'MISTAKEN ATTACK' THAT SHOCKED THE WORLD" BY MING HE. EXCERPTS FOLLOW:

ON JULY 3, AN IRANIAN AIRLINER WAS SHOT DOWN OVER THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE GULF BY THE U.S. NAVY...THIS INCIDENT HAS SHOCKED THE WHOLE WORLD...

...THE WORDS "MISTAKEN ATTACK" ARE TERRIFYING. THE U.S. WARSHIP HAS RADAR AND OTHER ADVANCED MILITARY MONITORING INSTALLATIONS...IT SHOULD HAVE HAD NO DIFFICULTIES IN TELLING WHETHER THE APPROACHING TARGET WAS A FIGHTER PLANE OR A HUGE AIRBUS.

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EARLIER, THE U.S. DECLARED THAT IT WAS SENDING
WARSHIPS TO THE GULF, TO MAINTAIN THE FREEDOM OF
NAVIGATION OF OIL TANKERS. AT THAT TIME WORLD
OPINION POINTED OUT THAT THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE
SUPERPOWERS COULD ONLY COMPLICATE THE GULF
SITUATION. THE INVOLVEMENT OF U.S. WARSHIPS HAS NOT
CALMED THE GULF SITUATION. NOW PEOPLE CANNOT HELP
BUT ASK, HAS THE INVOLVEMENT OF U.S. MILITARY FORCES
HELPED MAINTAIN OR SERIOUSLY HARMED THE FREE
NAVIGATION OF CIVIL AIRLINERS IN THE GULF? IN ORDER
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TO AVOID THIS KIND OF INCIDENT THAT CAUSED THE DEATH
OF THE 290 PASSENGERS ON THE "AIRBUS" FROM HAPPENING
AGAIN, THE SUPERPOWERS SHOULD STOP THEIR MILITARY
INVOLVEMENT IN THE GULF REGION. RUSSELL
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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: SOPN
SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF MORNING TV NEWSCASTS, TUESDAY 7/5

A. CBS THIS MORNING

1. DOWNING OF IRANIAN AIR BUS - IRAN TODAY CONTINUES TO MOUNT AN INTERNATIONAL PROPAGANDA OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE UNITED STATES FOR THE DOWNING OF FLIGHT 655. AND THE U.S. NAVY CONTINUES ITS MISSION OF PATROLLING THE GULF. THE JOHN HANCOCK GUARDED THE SHIPPING LANES TODAY, AS THE AYATOLLAH KHOMEINI CALLED FOR AN ALL-OUT WAR AGAINST THE U.S. THE SOVIET NEWSPAPER PRAVDA JOINED IN THIS MORNING, ACCUSING THE U.S. NAVY OF A TERRORIST ACT, A MONSTROUS CRIME. A PENTAGON INVESTIGATING TEAM ARRIVES IN THE GULF TODAY TO SORT OUT THE FACTS, AND FIND ANSWERS TO TOUGH QUESTIONS. (FAITH DANIELS)

PRESIDENT REAGAN RETURNED TO THE WHITE HOUSE FROM CAMP DAVID DECLARING THE U.S. WILL ADHERE TO ITS POLICY OF USING THE NAVY TO PROTECT SHIPPING IN THE PERSIAN GULF
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DESPITE THE ACCIDENTAL DOWNING OF THE IRANIAN AIRLINER. HE DEFENDED THE NAVY: "I WON'T MINIMIZE THE TRAGEDY, WE ALL KNOW THAT IT WAS A TRAGEDY. BUT, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT AN INCIDENT IN WHICH A PLANE, ON RADAR, WAS OBSERVED

COMING IN THE DIRECTION OF A SHIP IN COMBAT, AND THE PLANE BEGAN LOWERING ITS ALTITUDE. AND SO I THINK IT WAS AN UNDERSTANDABLE ACCIDENT." VICE-PRESIDENT BUSH, IN MICHIGAN FOR A 4TH OF JULY PARADE, ECHOED THE PRESIDENT'S

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VIEWS. BUSH, A WORLD WAR II NAVY PILOT, WAS ASKED WHY U.S. RADAR EQUIPMENT HAD FAILED TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN AN AIRLINER AND A SMALLER FIGHTER PLANE. "HAVE YOU EVER BEEN IN COMBAT? IT'S QUITE DIFFERENT. I ASK THE QUESTION JUST RHETORICALLY BECAUSE COMBAT IS QUITE DIFFERENT THAN THE LABORATORY."

DEMOCRATS GENERALLY HAVE SOFT-PEDALLED CRITICISM OF THE ADMINISTRATION ON THE ACCIDENT AND THE POLICY WHICH LED TO IT. LIKELY PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE MICHAEL DUKAKIS CALLED FOR RENEWED EFFORTS TO END THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR: "CLEARLY WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO DEFEND OUR FORCES AGAINST IMMINENT THREATS. AND APPARENTLY THE SHOOTING-DOWN OF THE AIRLINER OCCURRED OVER WHAT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN AN UNPROVOKED ATTACK AGAINST OUR FORCES."

AS THE IRANIANS CONTINUED THE SEARCH FOR BODIES, IT WAS REVEALED THE CAPTAIN OF THE CRUISER VINCENNES, WHICH DOWNED THE PLANE, HAD SENT A MESSAGE TO SUPERIORS SAYING HE ACTED TO PROTECT HIS SHIP. THE TRAGEDY, HE SAID, WAS A BURDEN HE WILL HAVE TO CARRY THE REST OF HIS LIFE. (ERIC ENBERG)

THE U.S. NAVY WAS ON STATION IN THE GULF WAR ZONE TODAY.
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THE JOHN HANCOCK WAS PROWLING THE SHIPPING LANES. THE THREAT OF REPRISAL FOR THE SHOOTING DOWN OF THE IRANIAN AIRLINER HANGS AS HEAVY AS THE BLANKET OF HUMIDITY HERE. IRAN'S AYATOLLAH KHOMEINI HAS CALLED FOR AN ALL-OUT WAR AGAINST AMERICA TO AVENGE THE DOWNING OF THE AIRLINER. THE IRANIANS HAVE THREATENED TO DRENCH THE SKIES IN BLOOD TO GET THEIR OWN BACK.

RELATIVES OF THE PASSENGERS ON THE DOOMED AIRLINER WERE STILL IN MOURNING TODAY. THE SHIITES MOURN FOR 3 DAYS, PURIFYING THEMSELVES WITH ROSE WATER, STPPING TEA, AND READING FROM THE KORAN. SOME OF THESE MEN LOST MORE THAN A DOZEN MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILY IN THE ATTACK.

ALONG WITH THE MOURNING THERE WAS THE RITUAL CHANTING OF "DEATH TO AMERICA." THE MOURNERS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT WAS PRIMARILY FOR THE TELEVISION CAMERA. SAID ONE MAN: WE KNOW THIS IS A WAY TO TELL THE WORLD HOW WE FEEL. (ALAN PIZZEY)

"THIS IS A BURDEN I WILL CARRY FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE." THAT FROM A MESSAGE CAPTAIN WILL ROGERS, COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE VINCENNES, SENT TO THE PENTAGON AFTER HE REALIZED HE HAD ACCIDENTLY SHOT DOWN AN IRANIAN AIRLINER. WHILE IRAN RECOVERED THE DEAD, A TEAM OF INVESTIGATORS WENT TO THE PERSIAN GULF TO REVIEW THE RECORDINGS OF THE

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DATA COLLECTED BY THE STATE-OF-THE-ART RADAR ABOARD THE VINCENNES, WHICH SOMEHOW FAILED TO DETECT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A JUMBO-JET AIRLINER AND A JET FIGHTER.

CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF, EXPERTS SAY THE BIGGER PLANE WOULD NOT NECESSARILY LOOK BIGGER ON A RADAR SCOPE. NORMALLY, A COMMERCIAL AIRLINER SHOWS UP ON A RADAR SCOPE WITH A SIGNAL WHICH IDENTIFIES IT BY FLIGHT NUMBER, ALTITUDE, AND SPEED. SOURCES TELL CBS NEWS THE IRAN AIR BUS WAS SENDING OUT TWO SIGNALS: ONE IDENTIFYING IT AS A
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CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT, A SECOND SAYING IT WAS A MILITARY PLANE. U.S. OFFICIALS SAY THE AIRLINER WAS HEADING DIRECTLY FOR THE VINCENNES, FLYING OUTSIDE THE NORMAL AIR TRAFFIC CORRIDOR, TRAVELING AT HIGH SPEED, AND NOT RESPONDING TO RADIO CALLS. ROGERS WAS GRANTED PERMISSION TO FIRE WHEN THE PLANE WAS STILL 20 MILES AWAY, BUT HE HELD HIS FIRE UNTIL THE AIRCRAFT WAS JUST 9 MILES AWAY. HE CHECKED FOR SCHEDULED FLIGHTS IN THE AREA, BUT APPARENTLY NOT CLOSELY ENOUGH, BECAUSE FLIGHT 655 IS PLAINLY LISTED.

ROGERS CONCLUDED HIS MESSAGE TO THE PENTAGON BY SAYING, "I AND I ALONE AM RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ACTIONS TAKEN BY VINCENNES." (DAVID MARTIN)

2. SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE WRIGHT'S COMMENTS - ON HIS VISIT TO LONDON TODAY, HOUSE SPEAKER JIM WRIGHT SAID THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN SHOULD BE MORE APOLOGETIC FOR THE IRANIAN AIRLINER. WRIGHT ALSO SAID CONGRESS WOULD BE IN FAVOR OF COMPENSATING IRAN FOR THE TRAGEDY. THE SPEAKER ADDED THAT AMERICANS ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO PRIME MINISTER MARGARET THATCHER FOR SAYING THAT SHE UNDERSTOOD WHY THE NAVY FIRED AT THE PLANE. (FAITH DANIELS)

3. AMERICAN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON - IN BEIRUT TODAY, AN UNVERIFIED TELEPHONE CALL THREATENED THE LIFE OF ONE OF THE AMERICAN HOSTAGES. THE CALLER, AND WE EMPHASIZE THAT THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE CALL CAN NOT BE VERIFIED AT THIS TIME, SAID "WE WILL KILL AN AMERICAN CAPTIVE AND DUMP HIS BODY TODAY IN RESPONSE TO THE DOWNING OF THE IRANIAN JETLINER IN THE GULF." THE CALLER CLAIMED TO REPRESENT THE ISLAMIC JIHAD, A GROUP THOUGHT TO BE HOLDING HOSTAGES TERRY ANDERSON AND THOMAS SUTHERLAND. (FAITH DANIELS)
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4. HAMADEI TRIAL - IT IS A VERY RARE EVENT TODAY AS

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ACCUSED INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ACTUALLY WENT ON TRIAL FOR HIJACKING A U.S. PASSENGER JET. MOHAMMED HAMADEI, A YOUNG LEBANESE SHIITE MOSLEM, TODAY APPEARED BEFORE A SPECIALLY-BUILT COURT IN FRANKFURT. HE FACES CHARGES OF PARTICIPATING IN THE JUNE, 1985 HIJACK OF TWA FLIGHT 847. DURING THAT 17-DAY ORDEAL, A YOUNG U.S. NAVY DIVER WAS MURDERED BY THE AIR PIRATES AT BEIRUT AIRPORT. HIS PARENTS HAVE COME TO COURT TODAY TO FACE ONE OF THE MEN ACCUSED OF KILLING THEIR SON.

HAMADEI WAS CAUGHT BY ACCIDENT. A ROUTINE CHECK HERE AT FRANKFURT AIRPORT LAST YEAR FOUND HIM TRYING TO BRING LIQUID EXPLOSIVE INTO THE COUNTRY, AND THAT LED TO THE DISCOVERY THAT U.S. AUTHORITIES HAD IDENTIFIED HIM AS ONE OF THE TWA HIJACKERS.

THE HAMADEI TRIAL IS EXPECTED TO GO ON FOR MONTHS, WITH THE OPENING SESSIONS AIMED AT ESTABLISHING HIS AGE AT THE TIME OF THE HIJACKING TO DETERMINE WHETHER HE SHOULD BE TRIED AS A JUVENILE. EVEN IF HE IS, HAMADEI COULD FACE A STIFF SENTENCE.

WEST GERMAN OFFICIALS ARE BRACED FOR REPRISALS FROM MIDDLE EASTERN GUNMEN. IT'S SAID THAT HAMADEI BELONGS TO HEZBOLLAH, A FANATIC PRO-IRANIAN GUERRILLA GROUP THAT'S PROMISED TO SET HAMADEI FREE. AND, FOLLOWING SUNDAY'S TRAGIC DOWNING OF THE IRAN AIR PASSENGER JET, HEZBOLLAH MAY BE IN A MORE BLOODTHIRSTY MOOD THAN USUAL. (BILL MCLAUGHLIN, FRANKFURT)

5. INTERVIEW WITH BRIAN JENKINS OF THE RAND CORPORATION AND AMIR TAHERI, IRANIAN JOURNALIST, BY KATHLEEN SULLIVAN ON THE IRANIAN AIRLINER - JENKINS SAID HE THINKS THE OBVIOUS AND IMMEDIATE STEPS OF EXPRESSING OUR REGRETS OVER
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THE TRAGEDY ARE CALLED FOR, AND THE LAUNCHING OF AN INVESTIGATION TO SEE EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED ARE THE OBVIOUS NECESSARY FIRST STEPS. HE SAID BEYOND THAT IT WILL BE UP TO OUR DIPLOMATS TO PERSUADE THE IRANTANS THAT WE ARE TRULY REGRETFUL ABOUT THIS INCIDENT, AND ALSO TO TRY TO DISSUADE THEM FROM TAKING ACTION THAT COULD LEAD TO AN ESCALATION EVEN FURTHER OF ACTIVITIES BETWEEN THE U.S. AND IRAN.

TAHERI SAID IRAN EXPECTS SOMETHING MORE FROM THE U.S., THEY ARE NOT CONVINCED THE U.S. IS TRULY SORRY, THERE

HASN'T BEEN ANY SUGGESTION OF PAYING REPARATIONS, AND THE MOOD IS CHANGING AT THE MOMENT TOWARDS RADICALIZATION IN TEHERAN. HE SAID FINANCIAL REPARATIONS WOULD BE THE STARTING POINT FOR MORE NEGOTIATIONS. BUT THE LONG-TERM

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OBJECTIVE OF IRAN IS TO PERSUADE THE UNITED STATES TO LEAVE THE GULF AND NOT TO INTERFERE IN THE WAR IN FAVOR OF IRAQ.

JENKINS SAID THAT IT IS CLEAR THAT IRAN RECENTLY DECIDED THAT IT IS IN ITS LONG-TERM INTEREST TO NORMALIZE ITS RELATIONS WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES. IT CERTAINLY HAS TAKEN STEPS IN THAT DIRECTION WITH SOME OF THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. HE SAID WE HAVE TO BE ESPECIALLY CAREFUL NOW NOT TO OVERACT TO THE FEROCIOUS RHETORIC THAT IS COMING OUT OF TEHERAN RIGHT NOW, AND NOT UNEXPECTEDLY SO. THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN IRANIAN RHETORIC AND IRANIAN ACTION, WHICH HAS TENDED IN THE PAST TO BE SOMEWHAT MORE CALCULATED, HE SAID. HE SAID THAT THERE ARE THOSE IN THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN WHO SEE IT IN THEIR INTEREST NOT TO PROVOKE FURTHER CONFRONTATION, TO CONTINUE THE COURSE THEY HAVE ADOPTED FOR THE LAST 5 OR 6 MONTHS, AND TO TRY TO

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NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH THE WEST. THERE OBVIOUSLY WILL BE THOSE IN TEHERAN THAT WILL TRY TO EXPLOIT THIS PARTICULAR INCIDENT TO ADVANCE THEIR OWN INFLUENCE IN TEHERAN, AS WELL AS TO MAINTAIN THE DEGREE OF HOSTILITY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND IRAN ITSELF.

TAHERI SAID THAT WHAT THE U.S. SHOULD DO NOW IS SHOW SOME GESTURE OF FRIENDSHIP, FOR EXAMPLE, LIMITING U.S. MILITARY INTERVENTION IN THE GULF, A NEW EXAMINATION OF THE U.S. NAVAL PRESENCE, PROBABLY BY THE CONGRESS, AND THE OFFER OF REPARATIONS COULD PROVIDE A GOOD BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS.

B. NBC TODAY SHOW

1. VINCENNES INVESTIGATION - THAT SIX-MEMBER INVESTIGATIVE TEAM IS DUE TO ARRIVE IN THE PERSIAN GULF THIS MORNING TO BEGIN ITS INVESTIGATION INTO THE DOWNING OF THAT IRANIAN COMMERCIAL JETLINER WITH THE LOSS OF ALL 290 PEOPLE ABOARD THE PLANE. THE CENTRAL FOCUS OF THE INVESTIGATION: HOW THE U.S. VINCENNES, A ONE BILLION DOLLAR CRUISER EQUIPPED WITH THE MOST SOPHISTICATED ELECTRONIC GEAR AVAILABLE, MISTOOK THE COMMERCIAL AIRLINER FOR A FIGHTER PLANE AND SHOT IT DOWN. (JOHN PALMER)

THOSE INVESTIGATORS FACE A PRETTY TOUGH TASK AHEAD. THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE TO WADE THROUGH A GROWING LIST OF CONTRADICTIONS SURROUNDING THE INCIDENT, INCLUDING NEW REPORTS ABOUT RADIO SIGNALS THAT MAY HAVE BEEN BROADCAST BY THE IRANIAN AIRLINER.

ACCORDING TO PENTAGON SOURCES, THE IRANIAN AIRLINER WAS TRANSMITTING A RADIO IDENTIFICATION. BUT THE SIGNAL HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS AMBIGUOUS. IN OTHER WORDS, THE SIGNAL

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DID NOT TELL THE COMMANDER ABOARD THE VINCENNES WHETHER THE PLANE WAS CIVILIAN OR MILITARY. BUT SUNDAY, THE PENTAGON SAID, U.S. FORCES THOUGHT IT COULD HAVE BEEN UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

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MILITARY. OFFICIALS SAY IN AN EFFORT TO PROTECT HIS SHIP AND CREW, THE CAPTAIN ABOARD THE VINCENNES DECLARED THE UNIDENTIFIED PLANE HOSTILE, AND ORDERED IT BE SHOT DOWN. LATER THAT DAY, IN A MESSAGE TO HIS COMMANDER, CAPTAIN WILL ROGERS DESCRIBED THE FRANTIC EFFORTS IN THE VINCENNES COMMAND CENTER AS THE CREW ATTEMPTED TO IDENTIFY THE APPROACHING PLANE. THEY EVEN POURED OVER AN AIRLINE SCHEDULE GUIDE TO SEE IF THE PLANE COULD BE A CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT. IN THE MESSAGE, ROGERS ALSO REPORTED THAT GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, HE BELIEVES HE MADE THE RIGHT DECISION, BUT SAYS IT IS A BURDEN HE WILL CARRY WITH HIM THE REST OF HIS LIFE.

THERE ARE ALSO NEW REPORTS TODAY THAT THE AIRLINER MAY HAVE BEEN RISING, NOT DESCENDING, AS THE VINCENNES ORIGINALLY REPORTED. IT'S IMPORTANT TO POINT OUT HERE THAT IN ANY SUCH MILITARY ACTION LIKE THIS ALMOST EVERY TIME DISCREPANCIES ARISE IN ORIGINAL INITIAL REPORTING. GIVEN THE BENEFIT OF TIME, FULL DETAILS SHOULD BECOME KNOWN. (JIM MIKLASZEWSKI)

2. PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES REACT - IN 4TH OF JULY RHETORIC, THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES TOOK NOTE OF THE AIRLINER INCIDENT -- CAUTIOUSLY. VICE-PRESIDENT BUSH IN THE MIDWEST SAID IT IS NOT A PARTISAN ISSUE. DUKAKIS IN BOSTON WARNED IRAN NOT TO RETALIATE. JESSE JACKSON IN CHICAGO SAID THE U.S. SHOULD COMPENSATE THE VICTIMS: "WE MUST DEVELOP AND ENACT A POLICY OF PEACE." DUKAKIS: "WHILE WE ALL DEEPLY REGRET THE TRAGEDY, THIS IS NO TIME FOR ACTS OF TERROR OR REVENGE IN RESPONSE TO THE INCIDENT."

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES ARE GENERALLY CAUTIOUS AT A TIME LIKE THIS. MR. BUSH WAS WORKING HARD TO INFLUENCE VOTERS UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

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IN SAINT LOUIS: "OUR HEARTS GO OUT TO THE LIVES THAT WERE LOST YESTERDAY, ON THAT AIRLINER, AND THE FAMILIES, AND THE LOVED ONES. BUT MINE GO OUT ALSO TO THE CREW, AND TO THE CAPTAIN OF THAT SHIP, WHO FOLLOWED THEIR ORDERS, DID WHAT HE HAD TO DO, AND STAYED TRUE TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THIS COUNTRY." LIKE THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES, MR. BUSH HAS NOT HAD TIME TO ASSESS THE LONG-RANGE IMPACT OF THE AIRLINER EPISODE. BUT HE FULLY REGISTERED HIS OWN VIEWS ON PATRIOTISM, UNDERScoreD BY AN AIR FORCE F-15 BOMBER

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FLYING OVERHEAD. (TOM PETIT, SAINT LOUIS)

3. PALESTINIAN UPRISING - ISRAELI TROOPS HAVE DEMOLISHED THE HOMES OF MORE PALESTINIANS SUSPECTED OF THROWING FIREBOMBS, AND HAVE CLOSED 1200 ARAB SCHOOLS. AT THE SAME TIME, ARAB RESIDENTS HAVE CLOSED THEIR STORES AND THEIR SHOPS, DECLARING A GENERAL STRIKE TO PROTEST THE CONTINUED MILITARY OCCUPATION. (JOHN PALMER)

4. HAMADEI TRIAL - MOHAMMED HAMADEI, THE LEBANESE RADICAL CHARGED WITH THE 1985 HIJACKING OF THAT TWA JETLINER, WENT ON TRIAL TODAY IN FRANKFURT, WEST GERMANY. DURING THE HIJACKING, IN WHICH THE PASSENGERS WERE HELD HOSTAGE FOR 17 DAYS, A U.S. NAVY DIVER WAS MURDERED. (JOHN PALMER)

IT IS A DRAMATIC SETTING, INSIDE THE WALLS OF THIS MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON, WITH EXTRA GUARDS ARRANGED AROUND A SPECIALLY-BUILT COURTROOM. INSIDE, MORE DRAMA, AS ACCUSED HIJACKER MOHAMMED HAMADEI WAS STARED DOWN BY FORMER PASSENGERS ABOARD THE TWA JETLINER HE IS CHARGED WITH SEIZING AND DIVERTING TO BEIRUT 3 YEARS AGO. DIRECTLY ACROSS FROM, THE PARENTS OF AN AMERICAN NAVY DIVER HAMADEI IS ACCUSED OF BEATING AND KILLING DURING THE HIJACK.

HAMADEI IS PERHAPS THE MOST TERRORIST EVER BROUGHT BEFORE A WESTERN COURT. WHEN GERMAN POLICE CAUGHT HIM IN FRANKFURT WITH EXPLOSIVES, THEY WEREN'T SURE WHO HE WAS.
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BUT THEN GERMAN CITIZENS STARTED DISAPPEARING FROM BEIRUT, KIDNAPED BY A GROUP THOUGHT TO BE LED BY HAMADEI'S OLDER BROTHER. IT WAS PRESSURE ON THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT, WHICH DECIDED TO TRY HIM ANYWAY ON THE MOST SEVERE CHARGES POSSIBLE.

SO FAR THIS MORNING, HAMADEI'S LAWYER HAS CHALLENGED THE CHOICE OF INTERPRETER, THE CHOICE OF JUDGES, AND GERMANY'S JURISDICTION IN THIS CASE. AFTER THAT, AND AFTER ONLY 75 MINUTES IN COURT, HAMADEI HAD A HEADACHE, AND ASKED FOR A BREAK. HAMADEI'S ATTEMPTS TO DISRUPT PROCEEDINGS HAVEN'T RUFFLED THE FORMER PASSENGERS HERE TO TESTIFY AGAINST HIM. THE TWA PILOT IS EXPECTED AT A LATER SESSION, AND ALREADY SOME OF THOSE HERE ARE REPORTED TO HAVE FINGERED HAMADEI AS THE MAN WHO MASTERMINDED THEIR ORDEAL.
(STEPHEN FRAZIER, FRANKFURT).

5. INTERVIEW WITH IRANIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS SIROUS NASSERI BY JANE PAULEY (VERBATIM TEXT) -

Q: THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT IT APPEARS THIS INCIDENT TO HAVE BEEN A TRAGIC ERROR. THAT'S NOT QUITE THE SAME LANGUAGE YOU WOULD USE. COULD YOU...
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PREMEDITATED MURDER. DO YOU THINK YOU CAN PROVE YOUR CASE?

A: WELL, THIS IS PERHAPS A SECONDARY ISSUE. I DID HAVE A DISCUSSION WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL YESTERDAY WHEN HE WAS IN GENEVA, BEFORE THE STATEMENT WAS PUT OUT. I DID POINT OUT TO HIM THAT, IN OUR VIEW, THAT IT IS NEAR IMPOSSIBLE FOR THIS ATTACK TO HAVE BEEN ONE RESULTING FROM A MISTAKE. AND, I BELIEVE IN GENERAL, THAT PUBLIC OPINION IN THE WORLD ALSO CONFIRMS THE SAME. NOW, THE SECRETARY GENERAL, OF COURSE, HAS HIS OWN VIEWS, AND HE CAN EXPRESS UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

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THEM AS HE WISHES. BUT THERE WERE OTHER MORE IMPORTANT MATTERS THAT WERE REFLECTED IN HIS STATEMENT, AND THOSE WE ALSO DISCUSSED. ONE WAS THE QUESTION OF RESPONSIBILITY THAT IS BEING AVOIDED BY THE UNITED STATES. I BELIEVE IT WAS THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S VIEW THAT WHETHER A MISTAKE OR A DELIBERATE ACT, THE UNITED STATES STANDS RESPONSIBLE --

Q: EXCUSE ME, MR. AMBASSADOR -- THERE ARE INVESTIGATIONS, THE PENTAGON WILL CONDUCT ONE, I'M SURE THAT THERE WILL BE INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED BY INTERNATIONAL BODIES. WILL YOUR GOVERNMENT AWAIT THE RESULTS OF INVESTIGATIONS BEFORE IT FOLLOWS THROUGH ON VOWS TO AVENGE THESE DEATHS?

A: WELL, THERE ARE THREE SEPARATE QUESTIONS. WITH REGARD TO THE INVESTIGATIONS BY THE UNITED STATES, APPARENTLY THEY HAVE ALREADY MADE THEIR JUDGMENT BEFORE THEY MAKE AN INVESTIGATION SINCE PRESIDENT REAGAN, AS THE HIGHEST AUTHORITY IN THE COUNTRY, HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE DECISION WAS CORRECT BY THE COMMANDER OF THE SHIP, TO ATTACK A PASSENGER FLIGHT. SO I DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE INVESTIGATION IS ABOUT. MOREOVER, THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE THE MOST INAPPROPRIATE BODY TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY --

Q: BUT AN INVESTIGATION IS GOING TO BE CONDUCTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION BASED IN MONTREAL, AND I TAKE IT THAT IRAN PLANS TO COOPERATE WITH THIS INVESTIGATION. WOULD YOU --

A: INDEED, AS A MATTER OF FACT, YES, I'M SORRY, AS A MATTER OF FACT WE HAVE INVITED THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO CONDUCT SUCH AN INVESTIGATION AND WE'RE INFORMED THAT HE HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE IKO IN ORDER TO PREPARE FOR THE TECHNICAL GROUND IN ORDER TO CONDUCT THIS INVESTIGATION. WE WELCOME SUCH AN INVESTIGATION. SO FAF UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

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AS THE AVENGE IS CONCERNED, ~~AT THIS STAGE, WE REALLY HOPE~~
 THAT THERE WILL BE, IN PUBLIC OPINION, ~~WE WILL LET THE~~
 PUBLIC OPINION AND THE POLITICAL ACTIVITIES TO RUN ITS
 COURSE, AND WE HOPE THAT THE MATTER CAN EASE ITSELF DOWN
 THROUGH A PROPER APPROACH TO THE MATTER, THAT IS THE
 CONDEMNATION OF THE ACT BY THE UNITED STATES
 UNEQUIVOCALLY, TAKING UP RESPONSIBILITY BY THE UNITED
 STATES AND PUTTING THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE ON
 TRIAL AND MAKING APPROPRIATE COMPENSATION.

Q: WHAT IS APPROPRIATE COMPENSATION, IN YOUR ESTIMATION?

A: OF COURSE, AS FAR AS THE COMPENSATION ITSELF IS
 CONCERNED, THERE HAS BEEN MATERIAL LOSS, THERE HAS BEEN
 TREMENDOUS HUMAN LOSS, IT CAN NEVER BE FULLY COMPENSATED,
 BUT THIS IS, OF COURSE, A GESTURE THAT COULD HAVE BEEN
 ADOPTED. I BELIEVE MORE IMPORTANT THAN ALL OF THIS IS TO
 SEE WHAT WE CAN DO IN ORDER TO NOT PERMIT A SIMILAR
 SITUATION TO HAPPEN AGAIN. AND FOR THAT, THAT IS THE KEY
 QUESTION, AMERICAN FLEET SHOULD LEAVE THE AREA. AND THIS
 WAS ALSO INDICATED IN THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S STATEMENT.

Q: BEFORE I LET YOU GO, MR. AMBASSADOR, THERE HAS BEEN AN
 ANONYMOUS CALL IN BEIRUT CLAIMING TO SPEAK FOR THE ISLAMIC
 JIHAD, THE PEOPLE WHO HOLD AMERICAN HOSTAGES. THEY
 CLAIMED THAT THEY WILL KILL ONE OR TWO OF THE AMERICAN IN
 RETALIATION FOR THE SHOOTING DOWN OF THE IRANIAN AIR BUS.
 ARE THE AMERICAN HOSTAGES IN BEIRUT IN JEOPARDY?

A: I'M SORRY, WE HAVE NO CONTACT WITH THEM, NO INFORMATION
 ABOUT IT. OUR INFORMATION IS PERHAPS AS MUCH AS YOU HAVE,
 AND THAT IS THROUGH THE MEDIA.

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Q: ARE THE HOSTAGES LEGITIMATE TARGETS FOR RETALIATION?

A: WE ARE AGAINST TERRORISM, HOSTAGE-TAKING, IN GENERAL,
 DEFINITELY. AND THAT IS OUR PRONOUNCED OFFICIAL, SOLID
 POLICY.

Q: WOULD YOU HOPE THAT THOSE WORDS THAT YOU JUST SPOKE
 WOULD, TO SOME DEGREE, PROTECT THE HOSTAGES FROM PEOPLE
 WHO ARE OF ANOTHER MIND?

A: I NOT ONLY HOPE THAT, BUT I ALSO HOPE THAT ON THE OTHER
 HAND THAT U.S. PUBLIC OPINION WILL BE GEARED TOWARD THE

SITUATION THAT WE WILL NOT HAVE THE AMERICAN FLEET, WHICH
 EITHER ON THE GROUNDS OF HAVING COMMITTED A CRIMINAL ACT,
 OR IN THE AMERICAN VIEW, BECAUSE OF INCOMPETENCE, THEY
 SHOULD LEAVE THE AREA, OTHERWISE WE'LL HAVE SIMILAR
 SITUATIONS HAPPENING IN THE FUTURE. THE AMERICANS

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PRONOUNCED OFFICIALLY BEFORE THAT THE UNITED NATIONS IS NOT CAPABLE OF KEEPING PEACE IN PERSIAN GULF, AND THAT'S WHY THEY'RE THERE. JUST LOOK AT THE RECORD AND SEE WHAT HAS HAPPENED. WE HAVE HAD MASSACRES ONE AFTER ANOTHER, CONFRONTATIONS ONE AFTER ANOTHER, AND THERE HAS BEEN DANGER AND THREATS TOWARD SHIPPING LINES THAN EVER BEFORE.

A: MR. AMBASSADOR, I WILL HAVE TO THANK YOU FOR JOINING US THIS MORNING.

6 INTERVIEW WITH FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER ON THE GULF SITUATION - KISSINGER SAID HE THOUGHT THE STATEMENT BY THE IRANIAN AMBASSADOR WAS MODERATE AND BY IRANIAN STANDARDS CONCILIATORY. HE SAID RATIONALLY THERE IS NO REASON FOR A U.S.-IRAN CONFLICT; IF ALL IRAN WANTS IS ITS INDEPENDENCE, THERE IS NO COUNTRY THAT COULD BE MORE INTERESTED IN IT THAN THE U.S., AND NONE THAT IS LESS OF A THREAT TO IRAN, BEING THE FURTHEST

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OF THE SUPERPOWERS AWAY FROM IT. HE SAID THE DOWNING OF THE AIRLINER MIGHT BE A SHOCK TO BOTH SIDES TO REASSESS THE RELATIONSHIP. KISSINGER SAID THAT IF THE MODERATES IN IRAN MAKE AN INTELLIGENT ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION, THEY WILL RECOGNIZE THAT IT IS RADICALISM THAT GOT THEM INTO THIS SITUATION IN THE FIRST PLACE. IT IS THE UNRESTRICTED ATTACKS ON SHIPPING IN THE GULF, THE CONSTANT CHALLENGES TO ALL THEIR NEIGHBORS, AND THE REVOLUTIONARY FUNDAMENTALISM THAT IS THE CAUSE OF THE SUSPICION OF IRAN, THERE WAS NEVER ANY REASON PRIOR TO THIS. HE SAID HE WAS NOT ORIGINALLY FOR AMERICAN PRESENCE IN THE GULF BECAUSE IT MIGHT HAVE LED TO UNINTENDED COMPLICATIONS, BUT IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE IRAN-CONTRA CRISIS, IT HAS DONE A LOT OF GOOD, AND IT HAS BEEN REASSURING TO OUR FRIENDS IN THE AREA. IF WE PULL OUT NOW, HE SAID, IT WILL BE TAKEN AS AN ADMISSION THAT WE SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN THERE TO BEGIN WITH. THE IMMEDIATE OCCASION CAN BE USED FOR A BEGINNING OF A DIALOGUE BETWEEN IRAN AND THE UNITED STATES, AT FIRST TO DETERMINE WHAT HAPPENED, AND THEN TO GO INTO THE DEEPER PROBLEMS.

C. ABC GOOD MORNING AMERICA

1. PERSIAN GULF - U.S. SHIPS HAVE RESUMED THEIR ESCORTS IN THE PERSIAN GULF. TODAY THE FIRST CONVOY SAILED THROUGH THE SOUTHERN GULF SINCE SUNDAY'S DOWNING OF AN IRANIAN AIRLINER. PENTAGON INVESTIGATORS LEFT FOR THE GULF YESTERDAY. THEY WILL TRY TO RESOLVE CONFLICTING CLAIMS ABOUT HOW THE USS VINCENNES MISTOOK A PASSENGER PLANE FOR A FIGHTER JET. AS LARK MCCARTHY REPORTS, PRESIDENT REAGAN SAYS HE UNDERSTANDS HOW THE MISTAKE COULD HAVE HAPPENED. (HILARY BOWKER)

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IN HIS FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT PRESIDENT REAGAN SAID HE WON'T MINIMIZE THE TRAGEDY BUT HE DEFENDED THE ACTIONS OF THE U.S. SHIP. REAGAN: "I THINK IT WAS AN UNDERSTANDABLE ACCIDENT TO SHOOT AND THINK THEY WERE UNDER ATTACK FROM THAT PLANE." HE DISMISSED IRAN'S CLAIM THAT SUCH A MISTAKE WAS IMPOSSIBLE. MR. REAGAN REJECTED ANY COMPARISON TO THE INCIDENT NEARLY FIVE YEARS AGO IN WHICH SOVIET FORCES SHOT DOWN A SOUTH KOREAN AIRLINER. VICE PRESIDENT BUSH SAID THE TRAGEDY IS NO REASON TO CHANGE U.S. POLICY AND HE SUPPORTED THE SHIP'S CAPTAIN.

FOR THE ADMINISTRATION THIS INCIDENT MEANS MORE CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING ITS PERSIAN GULF POLICY BUT PRESIDENT REAGAN SAYS U.S. SHIPS WILL REMAIN IN THE GULF. (LARK MCCARTHY, WHITE HOUSE)

THERE WERE REPORTS THIS MORNING, UNCONFIRMED, THAT THE US WARSHIP VINCENNES HAD RECENTLY BEEN INVOLVED IN AN INCIDENT IN WHICH THE NAVY ALLEGEDLY HAD TRIED TO REDIRECT COMMERCIAL AIR TRAFFIC. IT IS FURTHER ALLEGED IN THE REPORT BY ONE GULF AVIATION SOURCE THAT THE VINCENNES RISKED PUTTING THAT UNNAMED AIRLINER IN DANGER OF A MID-AIR COLLISION. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS SO FAR NOT COMMENTED ON THAT ALLEGATION. (MIKE LEE, PERSIAN GULF)

THERE IS AT LEAST ONE REPORT THAT THE IRANIAN PLANE WAS NOT DESCENDING TOWARDS THE USS VINCENNES AS THE PENTAGON HAS CLAIMED. THE WASHINGTON POST SAYS CIVIL AIR AUTHORITIES IN DUBAI CLAIMED FLIGHT 655 HAD JUST RECEIVED PERMISSION TO CLIMB, NOT DESCEND, WHEN IT WAS SHOT FROM THE SKY. (HILARY BOWKER)

2. AMERICAN HOSTAGES/LEBANON - IN BEIRUT, A CALLER CLAIMING TO SPEAK FOR THE PRO-IRANIAN ISLAMIC JIHAD SAID TODAY THE GROUP WILL RETALIATE FOR THE DEATHS OF 290 CIVILIANS ON THAT IRANIAN PLANE BY KILLING ONE OF TWO
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AMERICAN HOSTAGES IT IS SAID TO BE HOLDING. THE ISLAMIC JIHAD IS BELIEVED TO BE HOLDING HOSTAGES TERRY ANDERSON AND THOMAS SUTHERLAND. (HILARY BOWKER)

3. HAMADEI TRIAL - IN FRANKFURT, THE TRIAL OF ACCUSED HIJACKER MOHAMMAD ALI HAMADEI IS BEGINNING TODAY. HE IS CHARGED WITH AIR PIRACY AND MURDER IN THE HIJACKING OF TWA FLIGHT 847 TO BEIRUT IN 1985. (HILARY BOWKER)

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4. INTERVIEW WITH FORMER NSC ADVISER ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI: BUT THE POLICY IS JUSTIFIED. THIS INCIDENT REALLY IS NOT THE WAY TO MEASURE THE POLICY. THE POLICY IS DESIGNED TO STABILIZE THE CONDITIONS IN THE PERSIAN GULF, AND THE PURPOSE, TO BE BLOUNT, IS TO PREVENT IRAN FROM WINNING THE WAR, THEREBY DESTABILIZING THE ARAB STATES THAT OUR FRIENDLY TO US--THAT'S WHY WE ARE THERE AND WE HAVE TO STAY THERE. THE REASONS THE SIGNS OF MODERATION WERE APPEARING IN IRAN WAS BECAUSE OF OUR PRESENCE. THE IRANIANS WERE COMING TO REALIZE THAT THEY CANNOT WIN THAT WAR. THAT'S WHY THEY WERE BECOMING MORE MODERATE. NOW IN REACTION TO THIS TRAGEDY, THE HARDLINERS WILL PROBABLY FOR A WHILE GAIN THE UPPERHAND PARTICULARLY AS THEY TRY TO GET US TO PULLOUT. BUT IF WE STAY ON COURSE, THEN HE THOUGHT THE MORE MODERATE ELEMENTS WILL BEGIN TO ASSERT THEMSELVES IN THE REALIZATION THAT IRAN CANNOT WIN THIS WAR.

AMERICAN POLICY ON THE LARGER ISSUE OF THE PERSIAN GULF WILL NOT BE CHANGED EITHER BY ACTS OF INTIMIDATION, OR BY IRRATIONAL VIOLENCE, OR BY TRAGIC ACCIDENTS. THESE ARE NOT THE CONSIDERATIONS THAT SHOULD SHAPE THE POLICY.

5. INTERVIEW WITH SENATOR JOHN WARNER AND MR. FRED
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AXELGUARD, MIDDLE EAST EXPERT:

WARNER: THE CAPTAIN HAS BUT A FEW SECONDS, IN THIS INSTANCE 240 SECONDS, TO MAKE THAT DECISION AS TO WHETHER TO DEFEND HIS SHIP OR TO STRIKE BACK OR BOTH, AND HE THOUGHT THE CAPTAIN DID THE RIGHT THING. WE HAVE COMPASSION FOR THOSE WHO WERE LOST IN THIS TRAGEDY AND THE PRESIDENT HAS ACTED QUITE PROPERLY AND HE HOPED THIS NATION MOVES SWIFTLY TO TRY AND COMPENSATE THE FAMILIES.

AXELGUARD: WAS CONCERNED THAT IN THE LAST TEN WEEKS THE FUNDAMENTAL SITUATION IN THE GULF HAS CHANGED. THE UNDERLYING THREAT THAT IRAN POSES TO OUR INTERESTS IN THE GULF, WHETHER THE IRAQIS OR THE SAUDIS, IS EVAPORATING. POLITICALLY, OUR PEOPLE ARE TALKING TO THE IRANIANS. THERE ARE MESSAGES AND SIGNALS BEING EXCHANGED. MILITARILY, OUR POLICY IS OUT OF SYNC AND THE CAPTAIN UNFORTUNATELY WAS PUT INTO A VERY DIFFICULT SITUATION.

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AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

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E.O. 12356: DECL: U7/U5/03
TAGS: PREL, MOPS, EAIR, UV, IR, US
SUBJECT: IRAN AIR FLIGHT 655: BURKINA FASO REACTION

REF: STATE 214700

1. (c) SUMMARY: PRESIDENT COMPAORE SENT A MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENT OF IRAN EXPRESSING SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT FOLLOWING THE DESTRUCTION OF IRAN AIR 655. ALTHOUGH CRITICAL OF THE US, THE MESSAGE STOPS WELL SHORT OF A CONDEMNATION. OFFICIAL BURKINABE MEDIA, PARTICULARLY THE RADIO, HAVE PROVIDED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF THE INCIDENT FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES, INCLUDING AMERICAN. ALTHOUGH BIASED IN FAVOR OF THE IRANIAN POSITION, WE HAD EXPECTED HARSHER MEDIA TREATMENT HERE. INDIVIDUAL BURKINABE HAVE VIRTUALLY IGNORED THE TOPIC IN DISCUSSIONS WITH EMBASSY

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OFFICERS. WE BELIEVE GREATER POTENTIAL DAMAGE FROM THIS INCIDENT WAS OBVIATED BY THE QUICK AND OPEN ADMISSION OF USG RESPONSIBILITY AND DEEP REGRET THAT IT TOOK PLACE. END OF SUMMARY.

2. (U) OFFICIAL RESPONSE:

THE GOVERNMENT OF BURKINA PUBLISHED ON JULY 6 THE FOLLOWING TEXT OF A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT COMPAORE TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN: QUOTE

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE 920393 151FPC/CDR 188 Date 9/8/96

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IT IS WITH PROFOUND SADNESS THAT WE HAVE LEARNED OF THE TRAGEDY IN THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ WHICH COST THE LIVES OF SEVERAL HUNDRED INNOCENT CIVILIANS FOLLOWING THE ATTACK BY AMERICAN MISSILES ON AN IRANIAN AIRBUS. WE WOULD LIKE DURING THIS SEVERE TRIAL TO ADDRESS TO THE IRANIAN PEOPLE AND TO THE BEREAVED FAMILIES, AND TO YOU, OUR SINCERE CONDOLENCES AND OUR FEELINGS OF PROFOUND SORROW AND THE EXPRESSIONS OF THE MILITANT SUPPORT OF OUR PEOPLE. THIS MILITARY OPERATION AGAINST A CIVILIAN TARGET SHOWS US ONCE MORE THE ABSURDITY OF THE CONCENTRATION OF FOREIGN MILITARY FORCES IN THE GULF WITH THE INTENT OF STIRRING UP NEEDLESS TENSION THERE. THIS IS WHY OUR PEOPLE, IN THEIR BATTLE AGAINST IMPERIALISM, ARE CONSTANTLY MILITATING FOR THE ADVENT OF A WORLD FREE OF ALL POTENTIAL THREATS TO WORLD PEACE AND SECURITY. END QUOTE.

3. (U) COVERAGE IN OFFICIAL MEDIA: DURING JULY 3 NEWSCASTS, RADIO BURKINA AND TV RAN STRAIGHTFORWARD COVERAGE WITHOUT ANY COMMENTARY OR EDITORIALIZING. RADIO BURKINA, DURING LENGTHY COVERAGE ON JULY 4, DESCRIBED THE DESTRUCTION OF IRAN AIR 655 AS A "MASSACRE," NOTING THAT US EXPLANATIONS OF ACCIDENT HAD NOT BEEN UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED. THE RADIO REPORTED COMMENTS MADE BY SENATOR

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SAM NUNN, GOVERNOR MICHAEL DUKAKIS AND JESSE JACKSON. IT REPORTED REACTIONS FROM WESTERN EUROPE, THE USSR, LIBYA AND ARAB GULF STATES. IT QUOTED IRANIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AS SAYING THAT THE US WANTED AN EXPANSION OF THE WAR IN THE GULF. IT ALSO NOTED THE QUICK US ADMISSION OF RESPONSIBILITY. RADIO BURKINA OPENED ITS JULY 5 COVERAGE WITH PRESIDENT COMPAORE'S LETTER REPORTED IN PARAGRAPH 2 ABOVE. IT SUMMARIZED THE USG AND IRANIAN POSITIONS. RADIO QUOTED SENATOR THOMAS DODD, GOVERNOR DUKAKIS AND THE WASHINGTON POST. IT CONCLUDED WITH A ROUND-UP OF REACTION AROUND THE WORLD. THE OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT DAILY, SIDWAYA, DID NOT COVER THE INCIDENT IN ITS JULY 4 EDITION. THE JULY 5 PAPER RAN ONLY A SHORT NEWS STORY WHICH WAS BIASED IN FAVOR OF THE IRANIAN POINT OF VIEW. THE ARTICLE NOTED THAT "INCIDENT OR OPERATION WITINGLY PREPARED, THIS AERIAL CATASTROPHE IS ONE OF THE UNFORTUNATE CONSEQUENCES OF THE ARMADA OF WARSHIPS WHICH IS STATIONED IN THE PERSIAN GULF SINCE JULY 1987."

4. (S) PRIVATE REACTION FROM BURKINABE: A USAID-SPONSORED PRICE POLICY SEMINAR OPENED AS SCHEDULED UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE ON THE MORNING OF JULY 4. THE AMBASSADOR AND THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE MADE OPENING SPEECHES; SIX BURKINABE MINISTERS WERE IN ATTENDANCE. THERE WAS NO MENTION OF THE INCIDENT IN THE

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 880UAGAD003652

REF ID: A66072
GULF. OUR JULY 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY RECEPTION WAS
ATTENDED BY ABOUT 500 PERSONS, MOSTLY BURKINABE AND
INCLUDING FOUR MINISTERS. EMBASSY PERSONNEL IN ATTENDANCE
REPORT THAT THE PLANE INCIDENT WAS ALMOST NEVER RAISED
DURING THE EVENING. ONE NOTABLE EXCEPTION WAS MINISTER
OF COMMERCE WHO, IN DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR, WONDERED
MATTER OF FACTLY HOW SUCH A MISTAKE COULD HAVE BEEN MADE.

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REF ID: A66072
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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88OUAGAD003652

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PAGE 01 OUAGAD 03652 02 OF 02 051718Z
ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-10	EUR-00	SS-00	CIAE-00
	DODE-00	H-01	MSC-01	NEA-06	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	HA-09
	L-03	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-01	OMB-01	INRE-00	USIE-00
	SP-02	SNP-01	C-01	PRS-01	DS-01	DSE-00	SCT-02
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P 051655Z JUL 88
FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7357
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 OUAGADOUGOU 03652

E.O. 12356: DECL: 07/05/03
TAGS: PREL, MOPS, EAIR, UV, IR, US
SUBJECT: IRAN AIR FLIGHT 655: BURKINA FASO REACTION

5. (c) LOCAL SECURITY PRECAUTIONS: DURING PICNIC FOR AMERICAN COMMUNITY ON JULY 3 WE TOOK OCCASION TO INFORM AMERICANS ABOUT THE INCIDENT, URGING A HIGHER STATE OF SECURITY ALERTNESS. WE HAVE ALSO REVIEWED SECURITY PROCEDURES WITHIN THE MISSION.

6. (c) COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE INCIDENT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED EXTENSIVELY ON RADIO BURKINA, THE COVERAGE HAS BEEN MORE BALANCED THAN WHAT WE MIGHT HAVE EXPECTED. WE NOTE THAT THE MESSAGE BY PRESIDENT COMPAORE, ALTHOUGH CRITICAL, AVOIDS A CONDEMNATION OF THE UNITED STATES. ALTHOUGH

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INDIVIDUAL BURKINABE HAVE HAD AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY AS A RESULT OF OUR JULY 4 RECEPTION TO RAISE THE ISSUE WITH US, IT DOES NOT SEEM TO BE UPPERMOST ON THEIR MINDS. WE BELIEVE GREATER POTENTIAL DAMAGE FROM THIS INCIDENT WAS OBIATED BY THE QUICK AND OPEN ADMISSION OF USG RESPONSIBILITY AND DEEP REGRET THAT IT TOOK PLACE. THIS WAS IN STARK CONTRAST TO SOVIET HANDLING OF THE KAL 007 INCIDENT. AT THE SAME TIME, BURKINA CAN BE EXPECTED TO USE THE ISSUE FOR URGING WITHDRAWAL OF AEL

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and determined that it is unclassified.**

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WILLIAM MCKNIGHT

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ACTION NEA-11

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	H-01	MSC-01	IO-19	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	SSO-00	HA-09
	L-03	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-01	FAAE-00	DOE-00	OMB-01
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O 051443Z JUL 88

FM AMEMBASSY RIYADH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0578

INFO GULF WAR COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

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E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PREL, MOPS, EAIR, ASEC, IR, US, SA

SUBJECT: SAUDI REACTION TO IRAN AIR INCIDENT

1. SUMMARY. THE SAUDIS BOTH OFFICIALLY AND INFORMALLY HAVE REACTED WITH UNDERSTANDING BUT CONCERN TO THE IRAN AIR INCIDENT. PRESS REACTION HAS BEEN SIMILAR. IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES ABOUT SECURITY, EMBASSY IS ADVISING PRUDENCE BUT SAYING WE KNOW OF NO SPECIFIC THREAT. PAN AM CANCELLED ITS JULY 4 FLIGHT TRANSITING RIYADH FOR LACK OF A ROUTING WHICH WOULD AVOID THE LOWER GULF. END SUMMARY..

2. OFFICIAL REACTION. IN A STATEMENT ISSUED LATE ON JULY 4, AN OFFICIAL SOURCE SAID THAT THE KING EXPRESSED HIS REGRET AND CONDOLENCES AND THAT THE KINGDOM "LOOKS FORWARD TO A SPEEDY END TO THIS DESTRUCTIVE WAR BETWEEN THE TWO MUSLIM NATIONS OF IRAQ AND IRAN FOR THE SAKE OF WARDING OFF MORE DANGERS AND CALAMITIES IN THE GULF AREA." (SEE FBIS LDO407213888). AVOIDING ANY DIRECT MENTION OF U.S. RESPONSIBILITY, THE STATEMENT REFERRED TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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THE INCIDENT AS "THE DOWNING OF AN IRANIAN CIVIL PASSENGER PLANE IN THE WATERS OF THE ARAB GULF..., AS REPORTED BY THE IRANIAN AND AMERICAN MEDIA."

3. EARLIER ON JULY 4 AFTER THE USUAL MONDAY CABINET MEETING, MINISTER OF INFORMATION ALI SHAER SAID THE CABINET HAD REVIEWED THE MILITARY ESCALATION IN THE GULF DURING THE PAST TWO DAYS AND THE KING HAD REAFFIRMED THAT THE KINGDOM WAS FULLY PREPARED TO CONFRONT ANY

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE 920393 15/FPC/CDR 785 Date: 9/18/96

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UNEXPECTED INCIDENT." DEVELOPMENTS IN THE GULF, HOWEVER, NECESSITATED "MORE WATCHFULNESS AND CAUTION AS WELL AS A UNIFIED AND FIRM ARAB STANCE IN ALL SPHERES." THE KING HAD ALSO REITERATED, ACCORDING TO SHAER, THAT SAUDI ARABIA WOULD NEVER FORESAKE ITS RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PROTECTING THE TWO HOLY MOSQUES.

4. PUBLIC REACTION. UNOFFICIAL COMMENTS HAVE MIRRORED THE OFFICIAL REACTION. EMBASSY CONTACTS AT THE SUBMINISTERIAL LEVEL AND AMONG SAUDIS SOCIALLY HAVE ALL BEEN UNDERSTANDING OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE IRAN AIR INCIDENT BUT CONCERNED THAT IT COULD LEAD TO ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE IN THE GULF. MOST EXPECT INCREASED IRANIAN TERRORISM. ONE PROMINENT SAUDI FEARED, HOWEVER, THAT THE INCIDENT WOULD DAMAGE THE REPUTATION OF THE U.S. AMONG "AVERAGE" SAUDI CITIZENS. ON THE OTHER HAND, A FEW SAUDIS HAVE TAKEN THE POINT OF VIEW THAT THE IRANIANS GOT THEIR JUST DESERTS FOR THEIR PIRACY IN THE GULF; SOME HAVE SUGGESTED AN IRANIAN PLOT TO ENTRAP THE U.S. A RANKING SAUDI NATIONAL GUARD OFFICER EXPRESSED STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE U.S. ACTION IN VIEW OF THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE SHOOTDOWN OCCURRED.

5. PRESS. IN THE SAME VEIN AS THE OFFICIAL
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ANNOUNCEMENTS, ARABIC LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS HAVE EDITORIALIZED THAT IF THE "IRANIAN RULERS HAD RESPONDED TO CALLS OF PEACE, THEN THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO FOREIGN TROOPS OR FLEETS IN THE REGION" AND THE INCIDENT WOULD NOT HAVE OCCURRED. (SEE USIS SEPTTEL.) ONLY CRITICAL PRESS REACTION WAS AN EDITORIAL IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE SAUDI GAZETTE, WHOSE EDITOR IS A SAUDI OF IRANIAN ORIGIN. THE U.S. EXPLANATION, THE EDITORIAL SAID, "CANNOT HOLD WATER" AND THE "MISTAKEN IDENTITY REASON IS VERY HARD TO ACCEPT BY ANYONE."

6. AMCITS. THE EMBASSY HAS ALSO RECEIVED ONE PHONE CALL FROM AN AMERICAN CITIZEN EXPRESSING HIS CRITICISM OF THE SHOOTING DOWN OF THE IRAN AIR FLIGHT. MOST INQUIRIES HAVE BEEN TO SEEK EMBASSY ADVICE ABOUT SECURITY. EAC, IN A MEETING JULY 5, DECIDED TO ISSUE AN ADVISORY SAYING THAT WHILE THE EMBASSY KNEW OF NO SPECIFIC THREAT PRUDENCE WAS ADVISABLE. SAUDI AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN FULLY COOPERATIVE IN REVIEWING SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS.

7. SHIPPING AND AIRTRANSPORT. NORWEGIAN EMBOFF, WHO MAINTAINS CLOSE CONTACTS WITH SHIPPERS, SAID NORWEGIAN SHIPS HAD STAYED OUT OF THE GULF ON JULY 4 BUT WERE NOW RETURNING. IN ADDITION, A NORWEGIAN SHIP WHICH HAD SOUGHT TO RENDER ASSISTANCE IN THE VICINITY OF THE WRECKAGE OF THE DOWNED AIRBUS HAD BEEN STRAFTED BY

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88RIYADH006668

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IRANIAN MACHINE GUN FIRE. CHEVRON ALSO TRIED TO INSTRUCT THEIR SHIPS TO AVOID THE GULF ON JULY 4 BUT COULD NOT GET IN TOUCH IN TIME.

8. PAN AM FLIGHT 89, WHICH TRANSITS RIYADH ENROUTE FROM KARACHI TO FRANKFURT, WAS CANCELLED JULY 4 FOR LACK OF TIMELY APPROVAL OF A ROUTING THAT WOULD AVOID POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS AREAS IN THE LOWER GULF ON THE KARACHI-RIYADH SEGMENT. IN ADDITION, SAUDI CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES

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ACTION NEA-11

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	H-01	MSC-01	IO-19	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	SSO-00	HA-09
	L-03	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-01	FAAE-00	DOTE-00	OMB-01
	INRE-00	ACDA-12	USIE-00	SP-02	SNP-01	C-01	PRS-01
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FM AMEMBASSY RIYADH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0579
INFO GULF WAR COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL, MOPS, EAIR, ASEC, IR, US, SA
SUBJECT: SAUDI REACTION TO IRAN AIR INCIDENT

TOLD US THAT FLYING TIGERS AIRLINE HAS REQUESTED A
DIFFERENT ROUTING FOR THEIR FLIGHTS ACROSS SAUDI
ARABIA. DUNFORD

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ACTION EUR-00INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 CIP-08
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THE WHITE HOUSE
AMCONSUL HALIFAX
AMCONSUL QUEBEC
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL TORONTO
AMCONSUL CALGARY
AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 OTTAWA 05449

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AGENCY FOR P/M (INFO P/R); P/GF; P/FW; P/FN; VOA/BXN;
P/PFE; EU
STATE FOR EUR/CAN; EUR/PA
WHITE HOUSE PASS NSC/WEUROPEE.O. 12356 N/A
TAGS: ECPS, PREL, CA, IRSUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION --SHOOTING DOWN OF IRANIAN
JETLINER, MCCARRAN-WALTER ACT1. FIVE CANADIAN NEWSPAPERS CARRIED EDITORIALS ABOUT
THE PERSIAN GULF INCIDENT ON JULY 5. PARTIAL TEXTS
FOLLOW:2. THE GLOBE AND MAIL'S ITEM WAS TITLED, "ACCIDENTS OF
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WAR." "....THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT DENY
RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MISS
LE ATTACK THAT DOWNED IRAN
AIR FLIGHT 655, BUT THE U.S. DOES NOT ACCEPT THE BLAME,
AT LEAST NOT YET....BUT THE UNITED STATES HAS YET TO
EXPLAIN HOW THE WORLD'S MOST SOPHISTICATED RADAR FAILED
TO DISTINGU
SH BETWEEN THE WIDE-BODIED AIRBUS AND THE
MUCH SMALLER F-14S STILL USED BY IRAN IN ITS WAR WITH

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IRAQ. ON THE OTHER HAND, IRAN HAS YET TO EXPLAIN WHAT A CIVILIAN AIRLINER WAS DOING IN THAT UNUSUAL SPOT, AT THAT UNUSUAL ALTITUDE, IN UNUSUAL SILENCE, JUST AFTER IRANIAN GUNBOATS ATTACKED AN AMERICAN SHIP IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS...

3. "ULTIMATELY, ONLY THE COMBATANTS CAN DECIDE TO RETIRE, AND WHERE WAR FATIGUE WAS INCREASING PUBLIC PRESSURE TO DO SO IN IRAN, FLIGHT 655'S DESTRUCTION WILL REDUCE IT, FOR AWHILE, AT LEAST. NO MATTER HOW FAIRLY THE UNITED STATES MAY EVENTUALLY DECIDE TO RESPOND TO SUNDAY'S SAD AND COSTLY BLUNDER, IRAN WILL SEEK REVENGE. THIS COULD CREATE HIGHLY DANGEROUS CONDITIONS, NOT ONLY FOR U.S. INSTALLATIONS AND CITIZENS, BUT FOR STABILITY IN THE ENTIRE REGION...."

4. THE TORONTO SUN RAN AN EDITORIAL TITLED, "DISASTER STATIONS." "....THE DESTRUCTION OF PLANES OR SHIPS IS BOUND TO HAPPEN GIVEN THE MIX OF BLIND RAGE FOR WAR WITH PROVOCATION, RHETORIC AND HEAVY COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC. THAT DOESN'T CONSOLE THE FAMILIES OF THE 290 WHO DIED WHEN THE U.S. WARSHIP BLEW APART THE IRANIAN AIRLINER....IT DID NOT MAKE A HAPPY JULY 4 FOR AMERICANS. THEY CAN CONTEMPLATE GLOOMILY ALL THE

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INCIDENTS THAT MAKE THEIR MODERN MILITARY SEEM ACCIDENT-PRONE....

5. "IT'S TOO EASY TO BASH THE AMERICANS ON THIS ONE. REMEMBER THEY'RE DEFENDING FOR ALL OF US THE PEACEFUL PASSAGE OF INTERNATIONAL WATERS. THAT SHIP TRAFFIC IS MORE IMPORTANT TO JAPAN AND THE WORLD THAN THE U.S.....IS THIS NOT THEN A COUNTRY (IRAN) THAT MIGHT HAVE ORCHESTRATED THE WHOLE EVENT. SACRIFICING AN AIRLINER LOADED WITH ITS CITIZENS TO WIN A PROPAGANDA ADVANTAGE MAY SEEM FAR-FETCHED BUT THIS IS A WORLD THAT HAS SEEN THE LUSITANIA SINK WITH MANY MORE TO BRING THE U.S. INTO A WAR...."

6. "AN ATROCITY IN THE SKIES" IS THE TITLE OF THE TORONTO STAR'S EDITORIAL. "THE DEAD NUMBERED 290 INNOCENT FLYERS, INCLUDING 66 CHILDREN, AFTER A U.S. MISSILE BLEW A PASSENGER JET INTO THE PERSIAN GULF SUNDAY. TO U.S. PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN, THAT'S "A TERRIBLE HUMAN TRAGEDY." BUT IT IS, IN FACT, AN ATROCITY....NOTHING CAN JUSTIFY THE SNUFFING OUT OF INNOCENT CIVILIAN LIVES. WHEN THE SOVIET UNION MADE A SIMILAR ERROR IN 1983 ---ALBEIT NOT IN A WAR ZONE -- CONFUSING A KOREAN PASSENGER JET WITH A U.S. RECONNAISSANCE PLANE AT A COST OF 269 LIVES, REAGAN... PROMPTLY CALLED IT AN "ACT OF BARBARISM"....FOR WHICH THE

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SOVIET UNION SHOULD PAY

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REPARATIONS. NOW, WHEN THE SHOE IS ON THE OTHER FOOT,
REAGAN CAN'T FIND THE WORDS TO SAY THAT THE TRAGEDY MAY
HAVE FLOWED FROM AN INTOLERABLE ERROR. AND HE IS SILENT
ABOUT COMPENSATION FOR THE VICTIMS' FAMILIES...."

7. THE OTTAWA CITIZEN CARRIED AN EDITORIAL TITLED,
"TRUST IN MACHINES FATALLY DECEIVING." "THE FIRST

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4188
THE WHITE HOUSE
AMCONSUL HALIFAX
AMCONSUL QUEBEC
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL TORONTO
AMCONSUL CALGARY
AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 OTTAWA 05449

USIA

AGENCY FOR P/M (INFO P/R); P/GF; P/FW; P/FN; VOA/BXN;
P/PFE; EU
STATE FOR EUR/CAN; EUR/PA
WHITE HOUSE PASS NSC/WEUROPE

E.O. 12356 N/A
TAGS: ECPS, PREL, CA, IR

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION --SHOOTING DOWN OF IRANIAN

REACTION TO THE IRAN AIR TRAGEDY IS GRIEVING DESPAIR:
ALL THOSE PEOPLE KILLED IN A MILITARY MISTAKE, IN A WAR
ALREADY OBSCENE IN ITS SENSELESSNESS. THEN IT IS RIGHT
TO ASK QUESTIONS -- ABOUT POLICY, MISPLACED PRIDE AND
NATIONAL REPUTATIONS.

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8. "POLICY FIRST. WHAT EXACTLY IS THE U.S. STRATEGY IN
THE PERSIAN GULF? THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION'S PURPOSE
HAS BEEN UNPERSUASIVE FROM THE START, AND THE MEANS TO
ITS UNCLEAR END HAVE HAD TRAGIC RESULTS....AND SO TO
MISPLACED PRIDE: THE DEADLY RISKS OF TECHNOLOGICAL
HUBRIS, THE OVER-RELIANCE ON MACHINES IN WARFARE...TO
HAVE EXPECTED TOO MUCH FROM THE VINCENNES RADAR IS ONLY
ANOTHER SORRY EXAMPLE....

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88OTTAWA005449

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9. "FIRING MISSILES AT THE AIRBUS WAS A DREADFUL MISTAKE, AT WORST A PANICKY MISJUDGEMENT. THAT IS NOT DEFENCE, BUT A TRAGIC REASON TO QUESTION U.S. POLICY -- AND TO REMEMBER THE LIMITS OF MEN AND MACHINES."

10. THE MONTREAL GAZETTE'S EDITORIAL WAS CALLED, "TRAGEDY IN THE GULF." "...IRAN, UNWISELY, IS VOWING TO RETALIATE. ANY SUCH MOVE WOULD ONLY CREATE NEW VICTIMS. IT MIGHT EVEN BRING THE UNITED STATES MORE DIRECTLY INTO THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR. BUT PERHAPS SOMETHING CONSTRUCTIVE CAN COME OF THIS TRAGEDY, IF IT PROMPTS THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO RENEW ITS SO-FAR HALF-HEARTED EFFORTS TO END THE WAR. IRAN HAS BEEN THE RECALCITRANT PARTY, BUT ITS ATTITUDE MAY BE SOFTENING BECAUSE OF RECENT IRAQI VICTORIES. THE TIME MAY WELL BE RIPE FOR A SERIOUS INITIATIVE."

11. AN UNRELATED ITEM OF INTEREST APPEARED IN THE GLOBE AND MAIL JULY 1, CALLED "DO YOU HAVE ANY THOUGHTS TO DECLARE?" "ONE OF THE HOARY RELICS OF ANTI-COMMUNISM APPEARS TO BE ON ITS WAY OUT IN THE UNITED STATES. THE MCCARRAN-WALTER ACT OF 1952, UNDER WHICH NON-CITIZENS COULD BE DEPORTED OR BARRED FROM THE COUNTRY FOR IDEOLOGICAL SHORTCOMINGS, IS UNDER ATTACK BY CONGRESS.

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12. "FOR MANY YEARS THE LAW HAS CAST A SHADOW OVER AMERICAN JURISPRUDENCE AND DEMOCRATIC VALUES IN GENERAL. IT CREATED TWO CLASSES OF JUSTICE: ONE FOR CITIZENS AND ONE FOR FOREIGNERS. IT ALSO RAN COUNTER TO THE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND THOUGHT THAT ARE CENTRAL TO THE COUNTRY'S OWN CONSTITUTION...."

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 PM-10 PA-01 OMB-01 INRE-00 USIE-00 SP-02 SNP-01
 C-01 PRS-01 P-02 T-01 -- /044 W

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ KUALA LUMPUR 05688

E.O.12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, MOPS, PROP, MY, IR, US

SUBJECT: MALAYSIAN REACTION TO U.S. SHOOTDOWN OF
IRANIAN PASSENGER JET

1. (e) SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH THE GOM HAS NOT MADE AN
 OFFICIAL STATEMENT REGARDING THE SHOOTDOWN BY THE US
 NAVY OF AN IRANIAN AIRLINER, THE STORY HAS BEEN ON THE
 FRONT PAGES OF MOST PAPERS HERE FOR TWO DAYS AND
 NEWSPAPERS GENERALLY REFLECTIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S
 POSITION CONTAIN ARTICLES SHARPLY CRITICAL OF THE US.
 IN LINE WITH ITS PAST PRACTICE ON EVENTS IN THE
 PERSIAN GULF, THE GOM WILL LIKELY VOICE ITS OPINION
 THROUGH ITS MANAGEMENT OF PRESS COVERAGE RATHER THAN
 THROUGH A DIRECT STATEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) NEWSPAPERS IN THE NEW STRAITS TIMES GROUP,
 WHICH ARE OWNED BY UMNO AND THEREFORE INDICATIVE OF
 GOVERNMENT VIEWS, HAVE TAKEN AN EXTREMELY NEGATIVE
 STANCE ON THE SHOOTDOWN OF THE IRANIAN JET. THE
 EMBASSY IS SENDING BY SEPTTEL EXTRACTS FROM EDITORIAL
 COMMENT IN LOCAL NEWSPAPERS; THE NEW STRAITS TIMES
 COMMENTED THAT AMERICA'S "HANDS ARE ONCE AGAIN STAINED
 WITH THE BLOOD OF INNOCENT PEOPLE." BERITA HARIAN,
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PAGE 02

KUALA 05688 050954Z

ANOTHER NST-GROUP PAPER, BALANCED ITS STRONG CRITICISM
 OF THE U.S. ACTION WITH A CALL FOR THE INTERNATIONAL
 COMMUNITY TO RENEW EFFORTS TO PREVENT AIRLINE
 PASSENGERS FROM BECOMING VICTIMS OF MILITARY
 SHOOTDOWNS OR TERRORIST BOMBS. MALAYSIA'S
 LARGEST-CIRCULATING NEWSPAPER, UTUSAN MALAYSIA, WHICH
 MAINTAINS A RELATIVELY INDEPENDENT EDITORIAL BOARD
 DESPITE PARTIAL UMNO OWNERSHIP, ASSERTED THAT THE
 IRANIAN JET WAS SHOT DOWN "INTENTIONALLY, TO SEER

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REVENGE."

3. (U) THE NEGATIVE EDITORIALS WERE COUPLED WITH A SELECTIVE INCLUSION OF WIRE SERVICE ARTICLES. FULLY REPORTED WERE ARTICLES WHICH DESCRIBED THE TECHNICAL SOPHISTICATION OF THE AEGIS AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM. BOTH THE NEW STRAITS TIMES AND UTUSAN MALAYSIA OMITTED A WIRE SERVICE STORY CONTAINING U.S. STATEMENTS ABOUT THE ODD BEHAVIOR OF THE IRANIAN JET AS WELL AS STORIES REPORTING DEFENSE OF THE U.S. ACTION BY MARGARET THATCHER AND THE LOW-KEY REACTION BY ARAB STATES. THE NEW STRAITS TIMES INCLUDED A NEGATIVELY-WORDED LIST OF "PAST MILITARY ACTIONS BY REAGAN," AND DEVOTED A SEPARATE FRONT-PAGE STORY TO A STATEMENT BY THE IRANIAN EMBASSY HERE.

4. (U) COVERAGE IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE STAR WAS LESS HARSHLY CRITICAL, HAD THE FULLEST WIRE-SERVICE COVERAGE, AND HAS THUS FAR NOT INCLUDED THE STAR'S EDITORIAL COMMENT. TELEVISION COVERAGE WAS CONFINED TO THE FOREIGN NEWS SECTION IN THE LATTER HALF OF NEWS SHOWS AND THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWS SHOW INCLUDED FILM OF A DEFENSE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINING WHY THE U.S. SHIP BELIEVED THE JET WAS HOSTILE.

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5. (c) COMMENT: WHILE THE GOM HAS BEEN WARY OF IRAN AND THE POSSIBLE INFLUENCE IT MIGHT HAVE ON THE ISLAMIC OPPOSITION PARTY, PAS, IT IS UNLIKELY TO TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN ATTEMPTING TO PUT THIS INCIDENT IN ANY KIND OF PERSPECTIVE. SEVERAL SENIOR GOM OFFICIALS AND POLITICIANS ATTENDING OUR 4TH OF JULY RECEPTION, HOWEVER, COMMENTED PRIVATELY THAT, WHILE THE LOSS OF LIVES WAS TRAGIC, THEY UNDERSTOOD U.S. OBJECTIVES IN THE GULF. WE ARE NONETHELESS LIKELY TO BE IN FOR A STRETCH OF CRITICISM AND DEMONSTRATIONS. A FIVE MAN DELEGATION FROM PAS ATTEMPTED TO PRESENT A PETITION TO THE AMBASSADOR THIS AFTERNOON, BUT LEFT BEFORE IT COULD BE TURNED OVER TO AN EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE. WE WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW CLOSELY THE GOM OFFICIAL AND MEDIA REACTION TO THE INCIDENT.
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SECSTATE FOR ARA

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: BL, IR

SUBJECT: MEDIA REPORT: THE ATTACK ON THE IRANIAN PLANE

ON JULY 5 THE LA PAZ DAILY "PRESENCIA" (CHURCH OWNED, CENTER LEFT) PUBLISHED AN EDITORIAL ON THE ATTACK ON THE IRANIAN PLANE WHICH SAID IN PART "...IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE NORTH AMERICAN PRESENCE IN THE PERSIAN GULF RESPONDS TO A STRATEGIC-MILITARY AND HEGEMONIC PURPOSE IN THE ZONE CONVULSED BY THE IRAQ-IRAN WAR. IN THIS SENSE, IT IS BLAMEWORTHY THE WASHINGTON POLICY AND REPREHENSIBLE THE 'MISTAKE' COMMITTED BY CONFUSING AN 'AIRBUS' WITH A BOMBER PLANE, WHICH IS THE SAME AS TAKING A BUS FULL OF PASSENGERS FOR AN ARMORED CAR....

"THE GREAT POWERS SHOULD TAKE THIS TRAGEDY AS A LESSON DESTINED TO END WAR AND ELIMINATE FROM THEIR ARSENALS ALL THE ROCKETS WHICH PLAGUE THE PLANET, CONSTANTLY THREATENING THE EXTINCTION OF HUMANITY."

2. THE LA PAZ DAILY "ULTIMA HORA" (CONSERVATIVE, PRO-BUSINESS) CARRIED ANOTHER EDITORIAL WHICH BEGAN "IT UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LA PAZ 08264 052142Z

IS THE 290 LIVES, OR THE 290 DEATHS, THAT MOVE ONE TO INDIGNATION...THE ENTIRE PROGRESS OF SCIENCE, THE CREATION OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES, THE ADVANCE OF CIVILIZATION, CANNOT DETER MAN FROM KEEPING ON MAKING WAR, WHICH IS THE MOST ABOMINABLE PROOF OF PRIMITIVISM AND BARBARISM...

"EVEN IF IT IS BY ERROR, A TRAGIC ERROR, THE DOWNING OF THE IRANIAN PLANE DESERVES ALL THE WORLD'S REPROBATION

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"IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING, THE PROBLEM LIES IN THE
DISPROPORTION EXISTENT BETWEEN THE GREAT CAPACITY AND
TECHNOLOGICAL ABILITY TO PUT FORTH WAR-LIKE ACTIONS, AND
THE TECHNICAL LIMITATIONS TO REDUCE TO A MINIMUM THE
POSSIBILITIES OF COMMITTING MISTAKES, WHICH, AS THIS
ONE, FATALLY STRIKE AGAINST LIFE..."

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E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PREL, MOPS, PK, IR

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL PAKISTANI STATEMENTS ON IRAN AIR CRASH

1. JULY 5 PAKISTANI PRESS CARRIED OFFICIAL STATEMENTS ISSUED BY PRESIDENT ZIA AND FOREIGN MINISTER YAQUB KHAN THE PREVIOUS DAY. ZIA'S STATEMENT (PARA 2 BELOW) TERMED THE INCIDENT "HIGHLY REGRETTABLE," "REPREHENSIBLE," AND "UNPARDONABLE." ZIA ALSO CALLED UPON "OUTSIDE FORCES" TO CEASE ACTS THAT AGGRAVATE REGIONAL TENSIONS AND INTENSIFY THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR. YAQUB KHAN'S STATEMENT (PARA 3) CALLED THE ACTION OF THE CREW OF THE USS VINCENNES "DEPLORABLE" AND "RECKLESS" AND SAID THAT SUCH AN INCIDENT WAS "INCOMPREHENSIBLE" TODAY GIVEN THE SOPHISTICATION OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY. BOTH STATEMENTS CALLED FOR THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TRAGEDY TO BE PUNISHED.

2. BEGIN TEXT OF PRESIDENT ZIA'S MESSAGE TO IRANIAN PRESIDENT HAMENEI:

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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 14251 050720Z

EXCELLENCY, I WAS APPALLED AND GRIEVED BEYOND MEASURE BY THE HEART-RENDING NEWS OF THE SHOOTING DOWN OF AN IRANIA CIVIL AIRLINER THAT RESULTED IN A COLOSSAL LOSS OF LIFE. THE POIGNANCY OF THIS ENORMOUS TRAGEDY IS APPARENT FROM THE FACT THAT THOSE WHO PERISHED IN IT WERE INNOCENT CHILDREN, WOMEN AND MEN. THIS TRAGIC EVENT HAS NATURALLY CAST A PALL OF GLOOM ALL OVER PAKISTAN.

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THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE INCIDENT MADE IT BOTH
HIGHLY REGRETTABLE AND REPREHENSIBLE. WE URGE THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE U.S. TO INITIATE A FULL ENQUIRY INTO
THE INCIDENT AND DULY PUNISH THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS
UNPARDONABLE DEED.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE TRAGEDY UNDERSCORES THE NEED FOR
ALL OUTSIDE FORCES IN THE GULF TO DEESCALATE THEIR
ACTIVITIES AND TO DESIST FROM ACTS WHICH LEAD TO FURTHER
AGGRAVATION OF TENSION IN THE REGION AND INTENSIFICATION
OF THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR.

IN THIS HOUR OF YOUR NATIONAL MOURNING, THE GOVERNMENT
AND THE PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN JOIN ME IN CONVEYING OUR
DEEPEST SYMPATHIES AND CONDOLENCES TO THE PEOPLE AND THE
GOVERNMENT OF IRAN AND PARTICULARLY TO THE BEREAVED
FAMILIES. I WISH YOUR EXCELLENCY HEALTH AND LONG LIFE
AND CONTINUED PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY OF THE BROTHERLY
PEOPLE OF IRAN.

END TEXT OF PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

3. BEGIN TEXT OF FOREIGN MINISTER SAHABZADA YAQUB KHAN'S
MESSAGE TO IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VELAYATI:

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PAGE 03 ISLAMA 14251 050720Z

YOUR EXCELLENCY, THE SHOOTING DOWN OF AN IRANIAN
CIVILIAN AIRLINER BY A U.S. SHIP, CAUSING LOSS OF MANY
PRECIOUS LIVES, HAS DEEPLY SADDENED ME. THE FACT THAT
298 INNOCENT WOMEN, CHILDREN AND MEN PERISHED IN IT ADDS
POIGNANCY TO THE SUFFERINGS AND ANGUISH IT HAS CAUSED TO
YOU AND THE PEOPLE IN IRAN. I WOULD LIKE TO ASSURE YOU
THAT WE SHARE YOUR SUFFERINGS IN FULL MEASURE, BOUND AS
WE ARE WITH IRAN BY HISTORIC TIES OF BROTHERHOOD STEMMING
FROM OUR COMMON ADHERENCE TO A GLORIOUS FAITH.

THE ACTION OF THE CREW OF THE U.S. CRUISER VINCENNES
THAT CAUSED THE TRAGEDY IS DEPLORABLE. IT WAS A RECKLESS
ACT THAT CALLS FOR A FULL INVESTIGATION AND PUNISHMENT
OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE. IT IS INCOMPREHENSIBLE THAT AN
INCIDENT OF THIS NATURE COULD OCCUR THESE DAYS, GIVEN
THE SOPHISTICATION OF THE EQUIPMENT EMPLOYED IN
MONITORING AIR FLIGHTS.

I CONVEY TO YOU AND TO THE BEREAVED FAMILIES OUR
DEEPEST SYMPATHIES AND CONDOLENCES. WE ALSO PRAY TO
ALMIGHTY ALLAH TO BESTOW HIS BLESSINGS ON THE INNOCENT
VICTIMS OF THIS TRAGEDY.

END TEXT OF FOREIGN MINISTER'S STATEMENT
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ISLAMABAD 14294

E.O. 12356: ~~DECL: OADR~~
 TAGS: PGOV, PREL, MOPS, PK, US, IR
 SUBJECT: PAKISTANI REACTION TO IRANAIR DOWNING

1. (c) SUMMARY: THE DOWNING OF THE IRANIAN AIRBUS HAS PRODUCED A VERY STRONG, EMOTIONAL RESPONSE IN PAKISTAN. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN WIDE COVERAGE ON THE FRONT PAGES OF ALL THE PAKISTANI DAILIES. THE REACTION HAS BEEN ONE OF SHOCK, DISBELIEF, AND ANGER. END SUMMARY.

COMMUNITY REACTION

2. (c) ANEES JILLANI, A LOCAL ATTORNEY WITH CONNECTIONS TO THE PPP, TOLD POLOFF JULY 4 THAT HE THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE IRANIAN RETALIATION FOR THE SHOOTING DOWN OF THE JET AND ALSO PREDICTED PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS IN PAKISTAN AGAINST THE U.S. ACTION. EMBASSY SOURCES

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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 14294 051134Z

REPORT THAT THE MOOD IN LOCAL SUNNI COMMUNITIES IS ONE OF SYMPATHY FOR THE IRANIAN PEOPLE, WHILE THE SHIA COMMUNITY IS MORE ANGRY THAN ANYTHING ELSE.

3. (U) BOTH THE PESHAWAR AND LAHORE HIGH COURT BAR ASSOCIATIONS HAVE CONDEMNED THE U.S. ACTION. THE FORMER TERMED THE ATTACK "BRUTAL" AND "DELIBERATE", WHILE THE LATTER WENT AS FAR AS TO LABEL IT "FASCIST ACT" AND "ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF U.S. IMPERIALIST ACTIVITIES." THE

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LAHORE BAR ASSOCIATION CALLED FOR THE PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT TO LODGE "STRONG PROTESTS" AGAINST THE U.S.

4. (U) JAMAAT-I-ISLAMI CHIEF, QAZI HUSSAIN AHMAD, CALLED THE DOWNING AN ACT OF "STATE TERRORISM" AND A "CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY". GHULAM MUSTAFA Jatoi, CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S PARTY CONDEMNED THE MISSILE ATTACK AND SAID THE ACT SHOWED A LACK OF "RESPONSIBILITY AND VISION ON THE PART OF THE U.S." A NUMBER OF OTHER SMALLER POLITICAL PARTIES ALSO ISSUED SIMILAR STATEMENTS CONDEMNING THE INCIDENT.

PRESS REACTION

5. (U) THE MOST CRITICAL COVERAGE HAS COME FROM THE ISLAMABAD DAILY "MUSLIM", WHICH HAS CLOSE TIES TO THE IRANIANS AND OFTEN ADOPTS A PRO-IRANIAN SLANT TO ITS REPORTING. THE "MUSLIM" CONDEMNED THE DOWNING AS A DELIBERATE ACT AND CALLED FOR THE PUNISHMENT OF THE RESPONSIBLE U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL. AN EDITORIAL TITLED "MASS MURDER" ACCUSED THE U.S. OF FURTHER ESCALATING THE IRAN-IRAQ CONFLICT BY MAINTAINING ITS PRESENCE IN THE GULF AND CALLED FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL U.S. FORCES FROM THE AREA. FEW WOULD BELIEVE THE

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PAGE 03 ISLAMA 14294 051134Z

"ERROR" THEORY OF THE DOWNING. IN LIGHT OF THE HIGH TECHNOLOGY RADAR SYSTEMS THE U.S. POSSESSES, IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO CONFUSE AN F-14 WITH A COMMERCIAL PASSENGER JET. THE EDITORIAL CALLED FOR THE U.N. AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES TO CONDEMN THE INCIDENT.

6. (U) ANOTHER EDITORIAL IN THE LAHORE DAILY, "THE NATION", WAS MORE CIRCUMSPECT, REFERRING TO THE INCIDENT AS A "TRAGEDY" AND EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO THE IRANIAN PEOPLE. THE EDITOR STATED THAT "IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE THAT THE U.S. WOULD HAVE DELIBERATELY SHOT DOWN A CIVILIAN AIRLINER." THE U.S. HAD "NO RIGHT TO BE IN THE GULF AS A POLICEMAN," AND THAT IN LIGHT OF THE RECENT TRAGEDY THE U.S. IS SEEN AS "AN INCOMPETENT BULLY THAT APOLOGIES FOR ITS ERRORS BUT LEARNS NO LESSONS."

7. (U) THE URDU PRESS HAS BEEN SIMILARLY CRITICAL BUT THE PAKISTAN TIMES, THE MOUTHPIECE OF THE GOVERNMENT, REPORTED ZIA'S AND YAQUB KHAN'S MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE TO IRAN AND REFRAINED FROM ANY EDITORIAL COMMENT.

COMMENT

8. (c) THE DOWNING OF THE IRANIAN PLANE IS PRODUCING A VERY EMOTIONAL AND NEGATIVE REACTION IN PAKISTAN. (SEE SEPTTEL ON OFFICIAL GOP REACTION). SO FAR, WE HAVE NOT

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RECEIVED ANY INDICATIONS OF ANTI-U.S. DEMONSTRATIONS BUT
WE ARE KEEPING OUR EARS TO THE GROUND. THE IRANIANS
HAVE DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION IN ISLAMABAD, LAHORE,
KARACHI, PESHAWAR, AND QUETTA AND COULD ENCOURAGE
ANTI-U.S. ACTIVITY BY SHIA AND STUDENT POLITICAL
GROUPS. RAPHEL##

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AMEMBASSY DHAKA

SECSTATE WASHDC 1862

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

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E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PREL, MOPS, IN, US

SUBJECT: REACTIONS TO IRAN AIR INCIDENT

1. AS EXPECTED, THE LOCAL PRESS HAS GIVEN CONSIDERABLE FRONT PAGE COVERAGE TO THE IRAN AIR INCIDENT THE NEWS REPORTING HAS BEEN BALANCED AND BASED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON INTERNATIONAL WIRESERVICE REPORTS SOME PAPERS HAVE ALREADY REACTED EDITORIALY. ALL HAVE BEEN UNIFORMLY CRITICAL OF THE U.S., WITH SOME DRAWING PARALLELS BETWEEN THE KAL 007 INCIDENT AND OTHERS ARGUING THE INCIDENT WAS A DELIBERATE U S. PLOY. SEVERAL PAPERS, HOWEVER, ALSO NOTED THAT THIS INCIDENT POINTS UP THE NEED FOR A RESOLUTION OF THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR.

2. REACTIONS FROM POLITICAL GROUPS THUS FAR HAVE BEEN PREDICTABLE. A CONVENTION OF LEFTISTS STUDENTS GROUPS MEETING IN CALCUTTA CONDEMNED THE U.S. ROLE IN THE INCIDENT JULY 4.

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THE VISITING LEADER OF THE BJP, ATAL VAJPAYEE, ALSO CONDEMNED THE INCIDENT IN A TALK WITH REPORTERS AT CALCUTTA AIRPORT. WHILE LOCAL COMMUNIST PARTIES HAVE NOT YET PUBLICLY COMMENTED ON THE INCIDENT, THEY WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE AT LEAST AS CRITICAL AS THEIR CENTRAL POLITBOROS HAVE ALREADY BEEN IN STATEMENTS MADE IN NEW DELHI. WE ARE EXPECTING A DEMONSTRATION THIS AFTER-NOON BY LEFTIST STUDENTS AT USIS AND HAVE ALREADY SOUGHT AND RECEIVED ASSURANCES OF ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM THE POLICE.

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3 WE HEARD A GOOD DEAL ABOUT THE INCIDENT DURING A MID-DAY JULY 4 RECEPTION AT THE RESIDENCE. MANY OF THE GUESTS CALLED THE INCIDENT UNFORTUNATE AND SEVERAL EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT IRAN WOULD RETALIATE AND SET OFF AN INCREASING CYCLE OF VIOLENCE. A FEW OF OUR GUESTS SYMPATHIZED WITH THE POSITION THE U.S. NAVAL COMMANDER WAS IN AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT, BUT MOST WERE AMAZED THAT THE USN VESSEL COULD NOT DISTINGUISH BETWEEN A FIGHTER AND CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT. SOME OF THE JOURNALISTS AND EDITORS IN ATTENDANCE WERE CRITICAL ABOUT INITIAL REPORTS THAT THE U.S. HAD DENIED SHOOTING DOWN THE PLANE, BUT ADDED THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN'S ADMISSION OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT HAD BEEN TIMELY AND CONSTRUCTIVE AND WOULD PROBABLY SERVE TO BLUNT SOME CRITICISM OF THE U.S.

4. COMMENT: OUR OPENNESS IN DEALING WITH THE IRAN AIR INCIDENT MAY HAVE BEEN HELPFUL IN CONTAINING IT SOMEWHAT, AND REPORTS OF OUR INVESTIGATION OF IT MAY ALSO BE USEFUL IN THIS REGARD. BUT WITH THE STRENGTH OF THE COMMUNIST PARTIES IN WEST BENGAL, WE EXPECT THE ISSUE TO BE KEPT ALIVE FOR SOME TIME TO COME AND WOULD APPRECIATE ANY MATERIAL WE CAN USE WITH THE PRESS AND PUBLIC, PARTICULARLY SOMETHING WHICH POINTS OUT THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THIS INCIDENT AND THE KAL EVENT.

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, AR
SUBJECT: ARGENTINE REACTIONS TO IRAN AIR INCIDENT

1. ~~(e)~~ SUMMARY. MODERATE TONE OF GOA COMMUNIQUE ON JULY 3 PERSIAN GULF INCIDENT STANDS IN MARKED CONTRAST TO SHRILL CRITICISM IN OTHER ARGENTINE PUBLIC REACTIONS. MFA OFFICIAL ASSURED US GOA CONSCIOUSLY TRYING TO AVOID BEING DRAWN INTO VILIFICATION OF USG. GIVEN DOMESTIC PRESSURES AND IMPORTANCE OF IRANIAN COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIP TO ARGENTINA, THAT WILL BE NO SMALL ACCOMPLISHMENT. END SUMMARY.

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2. (U) ARGENTINE PUBLIC REACTIONS TO THE DOWNING OF AN IRANIAN AIRLINER IN THE PERSIAN GULF RANGED FROM A MODERATE STATEMENT BY THE GOA TO DEMOGOGIC CONDEMNATIONS BY POLITICAL FIGURES. BESIDES THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT, LOCAL PRESS HAS SO FAR REPORTED PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY PERONIST PRESIDENTIAL PRE-CANDIDATE CARLOS MENEN, UCR CHAIRMAN OF DEPUTIES FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN.

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FEDERICO STORANI, CGT LABOR CENTRAL AND FORMER NOBEL PRIZE WINNER AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST ADOLFO PEREZ ESQUIVEL. EMBASSY FOURTH OF JULY RECEPTION WAS WELL ATTENDED. WHILE THE GULF INCIDENT WAS MAJOR TOPIC OF CONVERSATION, WE ARE SO FAR UNAWARE OF ANY MAJOR ARGENTINE FIGURES WHO ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY THEIR REFUSAL TO ATTEND BECAUSE OF THE INCIDENT.

3. (U) GOA COMMUNIQUE. GOA RELEASED COMMUNIQUE LATE JULY 3 EXPRESSING ITS "PROFOUND CONSTERNATION" REGARDING USN ATTACK ON IRANIAN PASSENGER AIRCRAFT AND HOPE FOR CLARIFICATION OF THE "CIRCUMSTANCES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (FOR ACTS) WHICH CAUSED IT." THE COMMUNIQUE ALSO STATED THAT ARGENTINA, AS A NON-PERMANENT MEMBER OF UNSC, REMAINS CONVINCED THAT IT IS "ESSENTIAL TO ACHIEVE A RAPID AND DEFINITIVE SOLUTION TO CONFLICT WHICH AFFECTS THAT REGION." IT EXHORTS MEMBERS OF SC AND PARTIES TO CONFLICT TO "MAKE ALL EFFORTS" TO BRING ABOUT PEACE IN PERSIAN GULF. FINALLY, COMMUNIQUE EXPRESSES CONDOLENCES TO PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF IRAN AND TO FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS.

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PAGE 03 BUENOS 07024 01 OF 02 052022Z

4. (U) OTHER PUBLIC STATEMENTS

-- CARLOS MENEM: PRESS SPOKESMAN FOR PERONIST PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFUL CARLOS MENEM ISSUED STATEMENT JULY 4 WHICH ENERGETICALLY REPUDIATED THE "MURDER" OF INNOCENT PASSENGERS ON THE IRAN AIR FLIGHT. THE MENEM STATEMENT DESCRIBED THE U.S. ARMED FORCES AS A CONSTANT DISTURBANCE TO WORLD PEACE THROUGH THEIR VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.

-- FEDERICO STORANI: AT JULY 4 ENCOUNTER WITH LOCAL PRESS, FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STORANI DESCRIBED THE INCIDENT AS A "CRIMINAL ACT" AND A MATTER OF "INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM."

-- CGT: THE HUMAN RIGHTS DEPARTMENT OF THE GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (CGT) ISSUED A STATEMENT ON THE INCIDENT JULY 4. STATEMENT DESCRIBED THE INCIDENT AS AN ACT OF HOMICIDE AGAINST THE IRANIAN PEOPLE AND REJECTED PRESIDENT REAGAN'S EXPLANATION OF THE INCIDENT.

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-- PEREZ ESQUIVEL: LEFT-WING HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST
ADOLFO PEREZ ESQUIVEL ISSUED STATEMENT JULY 4 IN
HIS OWN NAME DESCRIBING THE INCIDENT AS FURTHER
EXAMPLE OF USG AGGRESSIVE POLICIES AGAINST THE
PEOPLE OF THE WORLD.

5. (c) FOREIGN MINISTRY CLARIFICATION.

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88BUENOS007024

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 07024 02 OF 02 052022Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-10	EUR-00	SS-00	CIAE-00
	DODE-00	H-01	MSC-01	IO-19	NEA-06	NSCE-00	NSAE-00
	HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-01	OMB-01	INRE-00
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P 052014Z JUL 88
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6810
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN
USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA
USAFSO HOWARD AFB PN//DOI/LAI//
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL MONTREAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 BUENOS AIRES 07024

CINCSO AND CINCLANT ALSO FOR INTAFF

MONTREAL FOR ICAO REP

E.O. 12356: ~~DECL: OADR~~

TAGS: PREL, AR

SUBJECT: ARGENTINE REACTIONS TO IRAN AIR INCIDENT

DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN MINISTRY'S NORTH AMERICA
DEPARTMENT, EDUARDO AIRALDI, TOLD POLCONS
JULY 4 THAT GOA COMMUNIQUE WAS INTENDED TO
BE MODERATE. IT WAS RELEASED RAPIDLY TO
AVOID PRESSURE TO SHARPEN CRITICISM OF U.S.
THE GOA, HE SAID, PLANNED NO FURTHER OFFICIAL
STATEMENTS ON EVENT, ALTHOUGH INDIVIDUAL UCR

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PAGE 02 BUENOS 07024 02 OF 02 052022Z

POLITICIANS MIGHT SPEAK OUT FOR THEMSELVES.
AIRALDI EMPHASIZED THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD
MADE COMMUNIQUE AS LOW KEY AS POSSIBLE.
RATHER THAN DISTRIBUTE TEXT, HE SAID, MINISTRY
MERELY READ IT TO MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WHO
CALLED IN. AIRALDI DID NOTE, HOWEVER, THE
COMMUNIQUE WOULD PROBABLY BE DISTRIBUTED AT
SECURITY COUNCIL. AIRALDI MADE POINT OF
EMPHASIZING THAT GOA FULLY UNDERSTOOD ACCIDENTAL

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NATURE OF EVENT. HE MENTIONED THE IRAQI EXOCET
ATTACK ON USS STARK AS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF WHAT
CAN OCCUR IN CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH EXIST IN
PERSIAN GULF.

6. ~~(G)~~ OTHER JULY 4 ATTENDEES

SOVIET BLOC AND ARAB NATIONS WERE WELL REPRESENTED
AT EMBASSY'S JULY FOURTH RECEPTION IN BUENOS AIRES.
POLOFF SPECIFICALLY INQUIRED OF SOVIET DCM WHETHER
HE HAD RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM MOSCOW IN LIGHT OF
JULY 3 INCIDENT IN THE GULF. HE CLAIMED SOVIET
EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED NO INSTRUCTIONS WHATSOEVER COUNTER-
MANDING GUIDANCE FROM THE PRECEDING WEEK
TO ATTEND THE U.S. RECEPTION.

7. ~~(G)~~ COMMENT. GOA COMMUNIQUE STANDS OUT AMONG
THE EARLY PUBLIC REACTIONS TO THE GULF INCIDENT
IN ARGENTINA FOR ITS RELATIVE MODERATION. GIVEN
THE DOMESTIC PRESSURES, AS EVIDENCED BY THE OTHER
PUBLIC REACTIONS, AND EXTERNAL PRESSURES OF AN
IMPORTANT IRANIAN COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIP, THIS

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PAGE 03 BUENOS 07024 02 OF 02 052022Z

IS NO SMALL ACCOMPLISHMENT. PRESENCE OF DEFENSE
MINISTER JAUNARENA, INTERIOR MINISTER NOSIGLIA,
AND MANY OTHER HIGH RANKING GOVERNMENT AND
POLITICAL LEADERS AT EMBASSY JULY 4 RECEPTION
SUGGESTS GOA DOES NOT INTEND TO PARTICIPATE IN
VILIFICATION OF UNITED STATES OVER THE PERSIAN
GULF INCIDENT.

8. MOSCOW MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.

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PAGE 01

KABUL 01598 050812Z

ACTION NEA-11

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	DOFE-00	OMB-01	STR-17	INRE-00	USIE-00	JUSE-00	SP-02
	SNP-01	C-01	PRS-01	DS-01	DSE-00	SCT-02	E-01
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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL.

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9374

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ KABUL 01598

E.O. 12356: ~~DECL: OADR~~

TAGS: PREL, ASEC, PTER, IR, AF

SUBJECT: CRASH OF IRANAIR 655

1. IRANIAN EMBASSY KABUL, JULY 4, CIRCULATED NOTE TO DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS DESCRIBING JULY 3 ACTIONS IN THE GULF. NOTE STATES THAT PRESENCE OF AMERICAN WARSHIPS IN GULF IS CAUSE OF PROBLEM AND IRAN "CANNOT FORGET AND PASS OVER THIS FELONIOUS TRAGEDY SPONSORED BY WASHINGTON." NOTE ALSO CALLS FOR SUPPORT FROM OTHER COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

2. IRANIAN CHARGE KHUDADADI, JULY 4, ATTENDED A UN RECEPTION AND WAS DESCRIBED BY ISLAMIC ATTENDEES AS ANGRY BUT NOT HIGHLY AGITATED. KHUDADADI, HOST FOR ASIAN GROUP MEETING, JULY 5, POSTPONED MEETING UNTIL JULY 6 BECAUSE OF GULF INCIDENT. CONDOLENCE BOOK HAS NOT YET BEEN OPENED AT IRANIAN EMBASSY AS WAS DONE AFTER MECCA INCIDENT. GLASSMAN

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PAGE 02

KABUL 01598 050812Z

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 08067 01 OF 02 051311Z
ACTION NEA-11INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 PA-01
INRE-00 RP-10 SP-02 PRS-01 /035 W
-----074714 051316Z /38O 051302Z JUL 88
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO RUEHFO/USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0328
WHITEHOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
AMCONSUL JEDDAH PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY
USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 AMMAN 08067~~

USIA

FOR P/M, P/R, P/P, P/FW, P/FN, B/BXN, NEA; STATE FOR
NEA/ARN; WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC; MACDILL FOR USIA
REP. BILL MURPHEY

E.O. 12356:N/A

TAGS: PREL, JO, MOPS, IRIZ

SUBJECT: JORDAN MEDIA REACTION ON DOWNING OF IRANIAN
JET, JULY 4-5, 1988

1. (U) SUMMARY

-- THE DOWNING OF IRANIAN JET; HEADLINES HILIGHT
"REAGAN'S REGRET" (7/4) AND "TEHRAN'S THREAT TO ...
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PAGE 02 AMMAN 08067 01 OF 02 051311Z

RETALIATE" (7/5); COMMENTARIES: "A COLD-BLOODED MURDER"
(TAREG MASARWEH, AR-RAY 7/4); "A SHAMEFUL OMINOUS CRIME
AGAINST THE HUMAN RIGHTS THE U.S. CLAIMS TO DEFEND"
(SALAMEH AKOUR, SAWT ASH-SHA'B 7/5); "THE U.S.
SUFFERS...NAZI FEELINGS AGAINST THE WORLD'S PEOPLES"
(RAKAN MAJALI, AD-DUSTOUR 7/5); "INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS ARE URGED TO CONDEMN ...ABOVE ALL...THE
TERRORISM OF STATE" (MAHMOUD RIMANE, AR-RAY 7/5); "THE
U.S. EXAGGERATED EMPHASIS ON...MILITARY OVERKILL CAN...

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88AMMAN 008067

NEVER BE A SUITABLE RESPONSE TO ESSENTIALLY POLITICAL
DISPUTES" (JORDAN TIMES EDITORIAL 7/5)

END SUMMARY

2. (U) THE DOWNING OF IRANIAN JET:

-- HEADLINES 7/4:

-- "A U.S. MISSILE DOWNED AN IRANIAN JET 'BY MISTAKE'
(AD-DUSTOUR); "REAGAN REGRETS THE INCIDENT"; REAGAN
ADMITS THE DOWNING OF IRANIAN JET" (AR-RAY); "REAGAN:
THE INCIDENT IS A TERRIBLE HUMAN CRISIS" (SAWT ASH-SHA'B)

-- HEADLINES 7/5:

-- "WORLD'S DENUNCIATION OF THE DOWNING OF IRANIAN
JET; TEHRAN THREATENS TO RETALIATE" (AR-RAY);
"KHOMEINI CALLS FOR AN ALL-OUT WAR AGAINST WASHINGTON";
(AD-DUSTOUR AND SAWT ASH-SHA'B); "IRAN VOWS TO AVENGE
U.S. ATTACK ON PLANE; MOSCOW CALLS FOR PROMPT U.S.
WITHDRAWAL FROM GULF" (JORDAN TIMES); "REAGAN INSISTS
ON U.S. PRESENCE IN THE GULF" (SAWT ASH-SHA'B).

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-- COMMENTARIES:

-- TAREQ MASARWEH IN AR-RAY 7/4: "WE REJECT AND
CONFRONT THE IRANIAN SPIRIT OF INVASION AND REJECT
TEHRAN'S METHODS OF HIJACKING CIVILIAN PLANES, PLANTING
KUWAITI CAFES WITH BOMBS, AND SEIZING INNOCENT
HOSTAGES.... HOWEVER, AS ARABS CARRYING OUR GLORIOUS
NATION'S HERITAGE AND MORALITY, WE REJECT THE DOWNING OF
A CIVILIAN PLANE CARRYING HUNDREDS OF PASSENGERS INTO
THE ARABIAN GULF WATERS.... WHEN THE SOVIETS DOWNED A
CIVILIAN AIRLINER.... THE U.S. BECAME FURIOUS ABOUT THE
SOVIETS AND THE ISSUE WAS SUBMITTED TO THE UNSC.... THE
JORDANIAN REPRESENTATIVE THEN VOTED FOR DENOUNCING THE
INCIDENT.... WE SAY NO TO THE U.S. MILITARY ARROGANCE
AND NO TO THE DOWNING OF THE IRANIAN CIVILIAN PLANE....
THIS ACTION IS COLD-BLOODED MURDER."

-- MAHMOUD RIMAWI IN AR-RAY 5/7: "THE IRANIAN CIVILIAN
JET CATASTROPHE PROVES THAT... THE U.S.... WHO CAME TO
THE GULF UNDER THE COVER OF THE WAR.... IS FURTHER
COMPLICATING THE WAR.... IT IS IRONIC THAT THE RECENT
TRAGIC INCIDENT CORRESPONDS WITH WASHINGTON'S
CELEBRATION OF ITS NATIONAL DAY AS IF U.S. INDEPENDENCE
CANNOT BE COMPLETE WITHOUT VIOLATING OTHER'S
SOVEREIGNTY.... U.S. FLEETS MUST EVACUATE THE GULF AND
THE U.N. MUST PROTECT INTERNATIONAL NAVIGATION."

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-- UNDER "AN EPISODE IN THE SERIES OF U.S. MURDERS!"
 RAKAN MAJALI IN AD-DUSTOUR SAYS: "THIS OMINOUS CRIME
 CARRIES MORE THAN ONE MEANING.... THE U.S. SUFFERS FROM
 A SUPERIORITY COMPLEX... THAT LEADS TO THE CREATION OF
 NAZI FEELINGS AGAINST THE WORLD'S PEOPLES.... THE ARAB
 MOSLEM CITIZEN WHO DENOUNCES ALL IRANIAN PRACTICES...
 REALIZES THAT THE U.S. HAS USED THE GULF WAR TO THE

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ACTION NEA-11

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0329
WHITEHOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
AMCONSUL JEDDAH PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

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USIA

FOR P/M, P/R, P/P, P/FW, P/FN, B/BXN, NEA; STATE FOR
NEA/ARN; WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC; MACDILL FOR USIA
REP. BILL MURPHEY

E.O. 12356:N/A

TAGS: PREL, JO, MOPS, IRIZ

SUBJECT: JORDAN MEDIA REACTION ON DOWNING OF IRANIAN

EXTREME AND HAS INVESTED IT TO ACHIEVE POLITICAL AND
STRATEGIC RESULTS, AND TO KEEP THE GULF UNDER ITS
HEGEMONY.... THE ARAB MOSLEM CITIZEN ALSO REALIZES
THAT... THE BATTLE IN THE GULF IS RUN BY THE U.S. AND
THAT THE HAND THAT HAS DOWNED THE IRANIAN JET IS THE

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SAME HAND BEHIND THE CRIME OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE
WAR."

-- SALAMEH AKOUR IN SAWT ASH-SHA'B 7/5: "THE IRANIAN
JET CRISIS IS... DUE TO THE BROAD U.S. MILITARY
INTERVENTION (IN THE GULF).... IT IS MEANT TO GIVE IRAN
A NEW PRETEXT TO CONTINUE ITS MAD WAR AGAINST IRAQ
AND TO ESCALATE THE GULF NAVIGATIONAL PROBLEM... THE
U.S. SO FAR HAS NOT TAKEN ONE SINGLE STEP TO TERMINATE

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THIS DESTRUCTIVE WAR.... THE IRANIAN SET-CRISIS CAUSED BY THE U.S. IS A SHAMEFUL OMINOUS CRIME AGAINST THE HUMAN RIGHTS THE U.S. CLAIMS TO DEFEND.... INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ARE URGED TO CONDEMN THIS CRIME... CONDEMN THE BLOODY HANDS THAT COMMITTED IT.... AND CONDEMN ABOVE ALL THE TERRORISM OF STATE."

-- JORDAN TIMES EDITORIAL: "THE SHOOTING DOWN OF AN IRANIAN CIVILIAN AIRLINER BY AN AMERICAN WARSHIP... HAS BEEN DESCRIBED BY AN AMERICAN OFFICIAL AS 'AN ACCIDENT WAITING TO HAPPEN'.... THAT MAY BE TRUE BUT IT DOES NOT ABSOLVE THE PARTIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED OF BLAME FOR THE TRAGEDY.... WE DRAW TWO PRINCIPAL CONCLUSIONS FROM THE INCIDENT: 1) THAT THE CONTINUATION OF THE WAR IS BOUND TO GENERATE FURTHER TRAGEDIES SUCH AS THIS, AND 2) THE U.S. EXAGGERATED EMPHASIS ON TECHNOLOGY AND MILITARY OVERKILL CAN NEVER BE A SUITABLE RESPONSE TO ESSENTIALLY POLITICAL DISPUTES.... THE U.S., FOR ITS PART, MUST ACCEPT THE MAJOR SHARE OF BLAME FOR THE ACCIDENT AND MUST RECOGNIZE THAT MILITARY PROWESS IS NOT THE ANSWER TO ALL POLITICAL AND HUMAN DILEMMAS.... WE THOUGHT THE U.S. LEARNED ITS LESSON IN LEBANON SEVERAL YEARS AGO, WHEN ALL ITS NAVAL FIREPOWER CAME TO NAUGHT, AND IT HAD TO RETREAT WITH SEVERAL HUNDRED DEAD AMERICAN SOLDIERS."

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3. (LOU) COMMENT: COVERAGE OF THE INCIDENT HAS BEEN SURPRISINGLY MUTED. MOST PAPERS HAVE RELIED ON STRAIGHT WIRE SERVICE, FACTUAL REPORTING WITHOUT EMBELLISHMENT. JORDAN TELEVISION IN BOTH ARABIC AND ENGLISH NEWS BROADCASTS WERE ALMOST SYMPATHETIC IN THEIR COVERAGE OF THE U.S. ACTION, FOCUSING ON THE TECHNICAL EXPLANATIONS AND OTHER COMMENTS BY OFFICIAL SPOKESMEN. NEGATIVE COMMENTS HAVE ONLY COME FROM COLUMNISTS WHO ARE NOTED FOR BEING GENERALLY CRITICAL OF AMERICAN POLICY AND ACTIONS IN THE REGION. THE ONE COMMENT WORTH NOTING IN THE LATTER CATEGORY IS THE ESCALATION OF RHETORIC BY AD-DUSTOUR'S COLUMNIST CHARGING THE U.S. WITH HAVING NAZI FEELINGS" TOWARDS THE REST OF THE WORLD. "NAZI" HAS BEEN A FAVORITE ADJECTIVE OF THIS WRITER IN COLUMNS ABOUT ISRAEL, BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME ANYONE CAN RECALL THE TERM BEING APPLIED TO THE U.S. IN ANY CONTEXT BY A JORDANIAN WRITER. ROBERTS

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PAGE 01 STATE 214719

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APPROVED BY: NEA:RWMURPHY

PA:POAKLEY(PHONE)

S/S-O: JJNORRIS

S/S:RWMUELLER

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TO ALL NEAR EASTERN AND SOUTH ASIAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY 2121

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FOR AMBASSADORS FROM A/S MURPHY

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: PREL

SUBJECT: INQUIRIES ON IRAN AIR DOWNING.

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. POSTS ARE DIRECTED TO ADOPT A STRICT "NO COMMENT" STANCE REGARDING ALL PRESS INQUIRIES CONCERNING THE ACCIDENTAL DOWNING OF THE IRAN AIR JETLINER BY THE USS VINCENNES. ALL PRESS INQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO WASHINGTON.

3. THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT HAS DISPATCHED AN INVESTIGATION TEAM TO THE REGION AND ANY PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM POSTS COULD JEOPARDIZE THE TEAM'S EFFORTS.

4. PLEASE MAKE CERTAIN THIS GUIDANCE IS MADE AVAILABLE TO ALL MEMBERS OF YOUR STAFFS AND IS SCRUPULOUSLY FOLLOWED. SHULTZ

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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

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INFO GULFWAR COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

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USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

JCS WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USIA WASHDC 3947

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ABU DHABI 03789E.O. 12356: ~~DECL:OADR~~

TAGS: PREL, MOPS, EAIR, TC, IR, US

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL UAE STATEMENT ON IRAN AIR TRAGEDY

REFS: A) ABU DHABI 3783, B) ABU DHABI 3784

1. (U) THE UAE MFA HAS RELEASED A STATEMENT ON THE SHOOTING DOWN OF THE IRAN AIR BUS, REPORTED IN JULY 5 PRESS AS FOLLOWS: "THE UAE HAS EXPRESSED ITS DEEPEST REGRETS FOR THE PAINFUL EVENT WHICH OCCURRED ON SUNDAY WHICH LED TO THE DOWNING OF A CIVILIAN IRANIAN AIRCRAFT BY A UNIT OF THE AMERICAN NAVY DURING CLASHES WHICH WERE TAKING PLACE BETWEEN THESE NAVAL UNITS AND IRANIAN WARSHIPS IN THE GULF. AN UNIDENTIFIED MFA SOURCE, SPEAKING OFFICIALLY, SAID THAT THE UAE REGARDS THIS

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PAGE 02

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REGRETTABLE EVENT AS THE RESULT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR WHICH CAN ONLY LEAD TO DESTABILIZATION OF SECURITY AND STABILITY IN THE REGION. CONSEQUENTLY, THE UAE RENEWS ITS CALL TO THE CONCERNED PARTIES TO RESPOND QUICKLY TO THE DESIRES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY REPRESENTED IN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 598, AND CALLS FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION AND AN END TO THE SITUATION OF TENSION IN THE REGION. THE UAE EXPRESSES ITS DEEPEST REGRET AND SADNESS FOR

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THE LOSS OF THIS GREAT NUMBER OF INNOCENT VICTIMS
AND SENDS ITS SINCEREST SYMPATHY TO THE GOVERNMENT AND
PEOPLE OF IRAN AND THE BEREAVED FAMILIES."

2. (C) COMMENT: THIS BALANCED AND HELPFUL STATEMENT
FOLLOWS CLOSELY THE TONE AND SUBSTANCE OF YESTERDAY'S
EDITORIAL IN THE SEMI-OFFICIAL ARABIC DAILY, AL-ITTIHAD
(REF B) AND THE COMMENTS OF MFA NUMBER THREE MAN,
AND ACTING HEAD, YAQUB AL-KINDI, YESTERDAY TO AMBASSADOR
(REF A). MACK

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PAGE 01 STATE 214715 TOSEC 130089
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INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /000 R

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APPROVED BY: PA:MAYODEN
S/S-O:JJNORRIS

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 214715 TOSEC 130089

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT:HIGHLIGHTS OF TV NEWSCASTS, MONDAY, JULY 4, MORNING
A. ABC GOOD MORNING AMERICA

1. PERSIAN GULF - THIS WAS THE GULF THIS MORNING.
THERE WAS NO SIGN OF ANY FURTHER CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN
THE U.S. AND IRAN, HOWEVER, THERE WAS EVIDENCE THAT THE
IRANIANS ARE ON ALERT. AS OUR HELICOPTER MADE ITS WAY
THROUGH A THICK HAZE AND CLOSED WITHIN TEN MILES OF THE
CRASH SCENE, IRANIAN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER FROM BANDAR
ABBAS ISSUED A WARNING. THROUGHOUT IRANIAN COMMUNITIES
IN THE ARAB GULF, SHOPS WERE CLOSED AS PART OF A DAY OF
MOURNING. GULF ARABS IN THIS REGION ARE UPSET NOT ONLY
ABOUT THE TRAGEDY ITSELF, BUT OVER A STATEMENT ISSUED BY
THE IRANIANS WHICH ARABS HERE FEEL MIGHT BE AN IMPLIED
THREAT. THAT STATEMENT WAS THAT THE INCIDENT HAS PUT AT
RISK ALL CIVIL AVIATION IN THIS REGION. (MIKE LEE)

HERE IN WASHINGTON, THE PENTAGON IS STILL SORTING OUT WHY
THE SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT ON THE USS VINCENNES MISTOOK
A AIRBUS FOR THE MUCH SMALLER F-L4 FIGHTER JET. (HILARY
BROKER)

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THEY ARE VERY DIFFERENT BOTH IN TERMS OF SIZE AND IN
TERMS OF SPEED. ALSO THE ANGLE OF ATTACK OF AN F-L4
WOULD HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT FROM THE ANGLE OF
THE AIRBUS TAKING OFF AND THEN ACHIEVING CRUISING
ALTITUDE. SOME POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS HAVE BEEN OFFERED.
FIRST OF ALL, THE ALTITUDE WAS LOWER THAN MOST COMMERCIAL

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FLIGHTS SINCE THE AIRBUS TOOK OFF SO RECENTLY ONLY FOUR MINUTES EARLIER FROM BANDAR ABBAS. SECONDLY, THERE WAS NO VISUAL SIGHTING. THIRD, IT CAME IN DIRECTLY AT THE VINCENNES. FOURTH, THE U.S. HAD NO AWACS OR E-2 RADAR PLANE IN THE AREA. FINALLY, THE FACT IS THAT THE AIRBUS IGNORED APPROXIMATELY SEVEN WARNINGS FROM THE VINCENNES.

THERE IS A HEIGHTENED STATE OF ALERT IN THE GULF, BUT THE WORD FROM THIS BUILDING AT THIS POINT IS THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO UNUSUAL ACTIVITY AND WE SHOULD REMEMBER THAT THE PATTERN OF IRANIAN DEALINGS WITH U.S. ASSETS--WAR SHIPS, PLANES, ETC.--HAS BEEN ONE OF CAUTION OVER THE MANY MONTHS OF THE PERSIAN GULF OPERATION. (BOB ZELNICK, PENTAGON)

EUROPEAN AND LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS ALSO DEPLORED THE LOSS OF LIFE BUT STOPPED SHORT OF CRITICIZING THE AMERICAN ACTION. HOWEVER, SOVIET SPOKESMAN GENNADI GERASIMOV CALLED THE U.S. "TRIGGER HAPPY," AND SAID THE U.S. HAD BEEN WARNED THERE WOULD BE TROUBLE. (HILARY BOWKER)

2. INTERVIEW WITH SEN. RICHARD LUGAR AND REP. LEE

HAMILTON:

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LUGAR: BELIEVED THE NAVY ACTED APPROPRIATELY IN THIS INCIDENT. THERE WAS NO REASON FOR THE IRANIANS TO FLY AN AIRLINER FILLED WITH PEOPLE DIRECTLY OVER A COMBAT ZONE WHERE THERE HAD BEEN COMBAT. IT REALLY LEADS TO QUESTIONS CONCERNING IRANIAN OPERATIONS. HE HAD SEEN REPORTS IN THE PRESS THIS MORNING THAT THE IRANIAN AIRLINER WAS OPERATING ON A MILITARY FREQUENCY AND IT IS INEXPLICABLE AS TO WHY IT WOULD BE ON THAT FREQUENCY AND WHY IT DID NOT RESPOND. THE FACT THAT THE PLANE WAS AT LOW LEVEL TO BEGIN WITH AND HEADING LOWER TOWARD THE VINCENNES AT VERY HIGH SPEED, STRAIGHT ON, IS EXTRAORDINARY.

HAMILTON: THOUGHT THAT U.S. POLICY TO MAINTAIN FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION OF THE SEAS, TO RESPOND TO THIRD COUNTRY VESSELS IN DISTRESS UPON REQUEST IS A SOUND POLICY AND ONE THAT WILL REMAIN. HE DID HOPE THAT OUT OF THIS WILL

COME A REINVIGORATED EFFORT TO TRY AND GET PEACE. U.S. INTERESTS IN THE GULF WILL BEST BE PROTECTED IF WE CAN STOP THE WAR. WE HAVE BEEN PURSUING A POLICY THROUGH THE UN TRYING TO BRING A HALT TO ARMS GOING INTO IRAN, AND HE THOUGHT THAT POLICY HAD NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL THUS FAR AND WE HAVE TO REINVIGORATE THOSE DISCUSSIONS.

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3. INTERVIEW WITH IRAN'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UN, MOHAMMAD
 JA-AFAR MAHALLATI: SAID IT IS SHAMELESS FOR THE U.S.
 AUTHORITIES TO PUT THE BLAME ON THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT.
 HE THOUGHT THAT CIVILIAN AIRPLANES SHOULD NOT BE
 SUBJECTED TO MILITARY ATTACKS. OUR AIRCRAFT WAS USING
 THE SAME REGULAR ROUTINE ROUTE WHICH IS RECOGNIZED BY
 INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION AND IT USED
 THAT ROUTE FIVE TIMES EVERY WEEK. THE WAR IS THERE
 BECAUSE OF U.S. PRESENCE AND IT IS WAS NOT SUPPOSED THAT
 CIVILIAN AIRPLANES SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO ATTACKS WITHOUT
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WARNING. WE DEFINITELY REJECT THERE HAD BEEN ANY WARNING
 AND THIS CASE COULD BE VERIFIED BY INTERNATIONAL,
 INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION.

WHY DID THE SOPHISTICATED VINCENNES NOT RECOGNIZE THE
 DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A CIVILIAN AIRLINER AND A FIGHTER?
 WHICH IS A LIE. WHICH PROVES IT WAS A PREMEDITATED
 ATTACK. IT WAS A COLD BLOODED MURDER. IT WAS A ACT OF
 CARNAGE AND PREMEDITATED, AND THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME
 THE U.S. HAS DONE THIS. THE PRESENCE OF THE U.S. IN THE
 GULF STARTED WITH THE MURDER OF 37 AMERICANS AND NOW
 ENDING WITH THE MURDER OF 290 IRANIANS INCLUDING 66
 CHILDREN. THE QUESTION IS THAT THEY SAY IT WAS AN ACT OF
 DEFENSE, DEFENSE AGAINST WHO? AGAINST 66 CHILDREN ON
 BOARD THE PLANE? WE CATEGORICALLY REJECT THAT THE PLANE
 HAD ANY WARNING.

ASKED IF INFORMATION WILL BE RELEASED FROM IRAN AND FROM
 THE RECOVERED BLACK BOX, MAHALLATI SAID YES AND IT SHOULD
 BE INVESTIGATED BY THE UN OR AN INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL
 BODY IN ORDER TO PROVE THAT THIS WAS A PREMEDITATED
 ATTACK, AND THAT THIS KIND OF CARNAGE AND HOSTILITY WILL
 CONTINUE AS LONG AS U.S. FORCES ARE IN THE PERSIAN GULF.
 WE WILL NOT PUT ANY LIMIT ON OUR ACT OF SELF-DEFENSE AND
 THEREFORE WE WILL RETALIATE VERY STRONGLY WHEREVER WE
 FIND AMERICAN INTERESTS.

B. NBC TODAY SHOW

1. PERSIAN GULF - A U.S. NAVY BOARD OF INQUIRY IS BEING
 FORMED THIS MORNING TO LOOK INTO THE DOWNING OF THAT

IRANIAN CIVILIAN JET LINER OVER THE PERSIAN GULF. THEY
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WILL WANT TO KNOW HOW THE VINCENNES WITH ITS VERY
 SOPHISTICATED ELECTRONIC GEAR COULD HAVE MISTAKEN A JUMBO

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JETLINER FOR A FIGHTER PLANE: AN EPISODE WHICH PRESIDENT
REAGAN HAS TERMED A TERRIBLE HUMAN TRAGEDY. (JOHN PALMER)

2. INTERVIEW WITH HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER TOM FOLEY: SAID THE HOUSE FEELS ANGUISH OVER WHAT THE PRESIDENT HAS RIGHTLY CALLED A TERRIBLE HUMAN TRAGEDY AND THERE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE CALLS FOR A REVIEW OF OUR POLICY IN THE GULF. HE PERSONALLY FELT IT WOULD BE A GREAT MISTAKE FOR THE U.S. TO ABRUPTLY WITHDRAW ITS FORCES AFTER THIS TRAGIC INCIDENT. HE ALSO DID NOT THINK THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WILL BE FACED WITH AN ABRUPT PROPOSED REQUIREMENT FOR WITHDRAWAL BY THE CONGRESS. HE THOUGHT THAT WHAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAS ALREADY DONE WILL MEET WITH APPROVAL, THAT IS, MAKING THE FACTS AS THEY ARE KNOWN AVAILABLE TO THE COUNTRY, THE CONGRESS, AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. PROPOSING AND CARRYING OUT AN IMMEDIATE NAVAL BOARD OF INQUIRY, AND THAT WILL BE FOLLOWED UNDOUBTEDLY BY AN EXAMINATION OF THE MATTER BY RELEVANT COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS. EVERYTHING THAT WE CAN LEARN ABOUT THIS INCIDENT SHOULD BE RELEASED PUBLICLY. THAT WILL DEMONSTRATE THE THE U.S. DOES NOT MAKE WAR ON INNOCENTS; THAT THIS WAS A TERRIBLE ACCIDENT; THAT WE DEEPLY REGRET IT AND THAT WE ARE GOING TO SEE TO IT THAT WHATEVER INFORMATION CAN BE DISCOVERED IS IMMEDIATELY MADE PUBLIC AND EVERY EFFORT TO SEE THAT SUCH A THING DOES NOT HAPPEN AGAIN IS TAKEN.

3. INTERVIEW WITH RETIRED AIR FORCE COL. FLETCHER CROWLEY: IN THIS CASE, THE AIRLINER WEIGHS FOUR TIMES MORE THAN A FIGHTER, BUT BECAUSE THE FIGHTER IS MUCH MORE COMPACT THE AIRLINER ACTUALLY IN CUBAGE IS MUCH LARGER THAN THE FIGHTER. AND FOR THOSE OF US WHO HAVE WORKED IN THE AIR DEFENSE COMMAND, FOR EXAMPLE, IT IS JUST INCONCEIVABLE THAT THE MODERN EQUIPMENT ON THIS AEGIS
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CRUISER COULD NOT TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THIS AIRLINER THAT HAD JUST TAKEN OFF NOT MANY MILES FROM THE SHIP AND WAS FLYING AT A VERY LOW ALTITUDE SOMETHING LIKE 7,500 FEET WHICH IS THE AREA WHERE COMMERCIAL TRANSPORTS FLY ON SUCH SHORT FLIGHTS AS AGAINST THE 30 OR 35,000 FT. THAT FIGHTER PLANES FLY. IT WAS INCONCEIVABLE TO HIM THAT THEY COULD HAVE MISSED THE IDENTIFICATION OF SUCH A LARGE AIRLINE. READING THE DIFFERENCE IN THE AIR SPEED OUGHT TO TELL A TRAINED OPERATOR THAT HE IS DEALING WITH A DIFFERENT AIRPLANE THAN A FIGHTER PLANE.

C. CBS MORNING NEWS

1. PERSIAN GULF - IRAN HAS DECLARED TODAY A DAY OF MOURNING FOR THE VICTIMS OF IRAN AIR FLIGHT 655. THE KHOMEINI GOVERNMENT ACCUSES THE U.S. OF AN ACT OF

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BARBARISM. AN IRANIAN REPRESENTATIVE AT THE UN HAD A STATEMENT: "THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN CONSIDERS THIS A PREMEDITATED ACT OF AGGRESSION, AND A PREMEDITATED COLD BLOODED MURDER." IRAN IS HINTING AT REVENGE. AMERICAN MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC FACILITIES AROUND THE WORLD ARE NOW ON ALERT TODAY. PRESIDENT REAGAN SAID THE ACCIDENTAL DOWNING OF THE IRANIAN JETLINER IS A "TERRIBLE HUMAN TRAGEDY," AND HE HAS PROMISED AN INVESTIGATION. BUT HE ALSO SAYS FIRING THE MISSILES AT THE IRANIAN JET WAS A PROPER DEFENSIVE REACTION AGAINST A POSSIBLE ATTACK. (FAITH DANIELS)

2. INTERVIEW WITH JESSE JACKSON: ON THE PERSIAN GULF, WE MUST MOVE MORE QUICKLY NOW TO MOVE IRAN AND IRAQ BACK TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE. THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS, THE PERSIAN GULF, AND THE TENSION IN ISRAEL AND THE WEST BANK ARE NOW THE CENTER OF FOREIGN POLICY DEBATE THIS YEAR AND UNCLASSIFIED
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IT MUST BE BECAUSE WE MUST FIND A REMEDY. THE U.S. SHOULD NOT MOVE OUT UNILATERALLY. THE FACT IS THEY ARE INTERNATIONAL WATERS AND WE DO HAVE A RIGHT TO BE THERE. BUT TO WHAT END ARE WE THERE? HAS OUR POLICY FAILED? THERE SHOULD BE A MULTILATERAL PRESENCE IN THE GULF BUT IT SHOULD NOT BE A PRESENCE WITHOUT END.

3. INTERVIEW WITH IRANIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UN MOHAMMAD MAHALLATI: THIS WAS NOT A MISTAKE. IT WAS A PREMEDIATED ATTACK. IT WAS A COLD BLOODED MURDER FOR MANY REASONS. FIRST IT IS WAS NOT THE FIRST TIME THE U.S. IS MAKING INTERCEPTION INTO CIVIL AVIATION. WE HAVE PILES OF CASES. ASKED IF THE PLANE WAS ON COURSE, MAHALLATI SAID DEFINITELY IT WAS IN THE NORMAL CORRIDOR RECOGNIZED AND ESTABLISHED BY THE CIVILIAN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION. BY DEFINITION IT WAS AN ACT OF TERRORISM WHICH SHOULD BE SEVERELY PUNISHED. THE U.S. ITSELF IS RESPONSIBLE FOR COMBAT IN THE PERSIAN GULF. SECONDLY, IT IS NOT SUPPOSED THAT CIVIL AVIATION SHOULD BE SUBJECTED TO MILITARY ATTACKS, PREMEDITATED ATTACKS. THEREFORE, WE CONTINUED CARRYING PASSENGERS FROM BANDAR ABBAS WHICH TAKES PLACE FIVE TIMES A WEEK CONTINUOUSLY. SO, THERE WAS NO REASON TO INFORM OUR PILOTS, AND HE REJECTED THAT THERE WAS ANY WARNING TO THE PLANE BY U.S. WARSHIPS. THERE IS NO EXPLANATION BY U.S. AUTHORITIES IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE. THIS IS AN ACT OF TERRORISM. ASKED IF AN ACT OF

TERRORISM WOULD BE THE RESPONSE BY THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT, MAHALLATI SAID THAT ANY ACT OF TERRORISM AND PARTICULARLY ON THIS LARGER SCALE WHICH RESULTED IN THE MURDER OF 290 PEOPLE SHOULD BE SEVERELY PUNISHED BY WHATSOEVER MEANS. ARMACOST

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FOLLOWING STATE 214700 DTG JULY 4 SENT ACTION AMREP, ALNED, ALEAP,
BEIRUT, KABUL, LENINGRAD AND SPECIAL EMBASSY PROGRAM BEING
REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION

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INFORM CONSULS, MONTREAL FOR ICAO

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, PREL, IR

SUBJECT: U.S. STATEMENTS ON THE IRAN AIR CRASH

1. FOLLOWING ARE THE TEXTS OF STATEMENTS ISSUES BY THE
PRESIDENT AND THE CHAIRMAN, JCS ON JULY 3:

2. BEGIN TEXT OF STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT:

I AM SADDENED TO REPORT THAT IT APPEARS THAT IN A PROPER
DEFENSIVE ACTION BY THE USS VINCENNES THIS MORNING IN THE
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PERSIAN GULF AN IRANIAN AIRLINER WAS SHOT DOWN OVER THE
STRAIT OF HORMUZ. THIS IS A TERRIBLE HUMAN TRAGEDY. OUR
SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCES GO OUT TO THE PASSENGERS, CREW,
AND THEIR FAMILIES. THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT WILL CONDUCT
A FULL INVESTIGATION.

WE DEEPLY REGRET ANY LOSS OF LIFE. THE COURSE OF THE
IRANIAN CIVILIAN AIRLINER WAS SUCH THAT IT WAS HEADED
DIRECTLY FOR THE USS VINCENNES, WHICH WAS AT THE TIME

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ENGAGED WITH FIVE IRANIAN BOGHAMMAR BOATS THAT HAD
 ATTACKED OUR FORCES. WHEN THE AIRCRAFT FAILED TO HEED
 REPEATED WARNINGS, THE VINCENNES FOLLOWED STANDING ORDERS
 AND WIDELY PUBLICIZED PROCEDURES, FIRING TO PROTECT
 ITSELF AGAINST POSSIBLE ATTACK.

THE ONLY U.S. INTEREST IN THE PERSIAN GULF IS PEACE, AND
 THIS TRAGEDY REINFORCES THE NEED TO ACHIEVE THAT GOAL
 WITH ALL POSSIBLE SPEED. (END TEXT.)

3. BEGIN TEXT OF STATEMENT BY ADMIRAL CROWE:

AFTER RECEIVING FURTHER DATA AND EVALUATING INFORMATION
 AVAILABLE FROM THE PERSIAN GULF, WE BELIEVE THAT THE
 CRUISER USS VINCENNES, WHILE ACTIVELY ENGAGED WITH
 THREATENING IRANIAN SURFACE UNITS AND PROTECTING ITSELF
 FROM WHAT WAS CONCLUDED TO BE A HOSTILE AIRCRAFT, SHOT
 DOWN AN IRANIAN AIRLINER OVER THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ. THE
 U.S. GOVERNMENT DEEPLY REGRETS THIS INCIDENT. A FULL
 INVESTIGATION WILL BE CONDUCTED, BUT IT IS OUR JUDGMENT
 THAT BASED ON THE INFORMATION CURRENTLY AVAILABLE, THE
 LOCAL COMMANDERS HAD SUFFICIENT REASONS TO BELIEVE THEIR
 UNITS WERE IN JEOPARDY, AND THEY FIRED IN SELF-DEFENSE.

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THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS COMMENCED WHEN VINCENNES'
 HELICOPTER WAS FIRED UPON BY IRANIAN SURFACE UNITS AT
 10:10 A.M. LOCAL GULF TIME (2:10 A.M. EDT), APPROXIMATELY
 40 MINUTES BEFORE THE AIR ACTION. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE
 VINCENNES IDENTIFIED THE IRANIAN FIRING UNITS AND CLOSED
 TO ENGAGE. THE IRANIAN GUNBOATS TURNED TOWARD VINCENNES
 AT HIGH SPEED AND WERE ENGAGED AT 10:42 A.M. WITH GUNFIRE
 FROM THE FRIGATE ALBERT B. MONTGOMERY. WHILE SO
 INVOLVED, THE VINCENNES DETECTED AN AIRCRAFT OVER IRAN AT
 ABOUT 10:47 A.M. THIS AIRCRAFT HEADED TOWARD THE
 VINCENNES AND COMMENCED CLOSING AT HIGH SPEED. VINCENNES
 IMMEDIATELY BEGAN ASSESSING THIS NEW THREAT. THE SUSPECT
 AIRCRAFT WAS OUTSIDE THE PRESCRIBED COMMERCIAL AIR
 CORRIDOR. MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE AIRCRAFT HEADED FOR
 VINCENNES ON A CONSTANT BEARING AT HIGH
 SPEED--APPROXIMATELY 450 KNOTS.

A WARNING WAS SENT ON BOTH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN DISTRESS
 FREQUENCIES BEGINNING AT 10:49 A.M. THIS PROCEDURE WAS
 REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES, BUT THE AIRCRAFT NEITHER ANSWERED
 NOR CHANGED ITS COURSE. THERE WERE ELECTRONIC
 INDICATIONS ON VINCENNES THAT LED IT TO BE BELIEVE THAT
 THE AIRCRAFT WAS AN F-14 (THERE HAD BEEN A NUMBER OF F-14
 FLIGHTS IN THE AREA OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS). GIVEN THE
 THREATENING FLIGHT PROFILE AND THE DECREASING RANGE, THE
 AIRCRAFT WAS DECLARED "HOSTILE" AT 10:51 A.M. LOCAL.

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10:54 A.M., WHEN THE AIRCRAFT WAS ABOUT NINE MILES AWAY, VINCENNES FIRED TWO STANDARD SURFACE TO AIR MISSILES, AT LEAST ONE OF WHICH HIT AT AN APPROXIMATE RANGE OF SIX MILES. BECAUSE OF THE LIMITED VISIBILITY, THE AIRCRAFT WAS NOT SIGHTED UNTIL THE IMPACT OF THE MISSILE.

IN UNDERSTANDING THIS INCIDENT, IT IS IMPORTANT TO APPRECIATE THE TOTAL CONTEXT IN WHICH OUR SHIPS OPERATE. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT EMPHASIZED FROM THE OUTSET THAT COMMITTING MILITARY UNITS TO THE PERSIAN GULF MISSION
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WOULD INVOLVE RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES. THIS CONCLUSION HAS BEEN REINFORCED BY SEVERAL INCIDENTS, E.G., BRIDGETON MINING, THE STARK TRAGEDY, AND THE SAMUEL B. ROBERTS MINING. A DECISION WAS MADE EARLY IN THE COMMITMENT TO GIVE OUR COMMANDERS SUFFICIENT LATITUDE TO PROTECT THEIR PEOPLE AND EQUIPMENT WHEN HOSTILE INTENT WAS MANIFESTED. THEY DO NOT HAVE TO BE SHOT AT BEFORE RESPONDING. THROUGHOUT OUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE PERSIAN GULF, THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT HAS REPEATEDLY THREATENED AND FIRED UPON U.S. FORCES.

IN SEPTEMBER 1987 AS A RESULT OF THE ATTACK ON THE USS STARK AND OTHER INCIDENTS, THE U.S. ISSUED A NOTICE TO AIRMAN (NOTAM) WHICH ADVISED ALL AIRCRAFT IN THE PERSIAN GULF REGION THAT U.S. NAVY SHIPS WERE TAKING ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONS AND OF THE NEED TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AND TO STATE THEIR INTENTIONS. ADDITIONALLY, THEY WERE ADVISED THAT FAILURE TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS FOR IDENTIFICATION AND INTENTIONS, OR TO WARNINGS, AND OPERATING IN A THREATENING MANNER COULD PLACE THE AIRCRAFT AT RISK BY U.S. DEFENSIVE MEASURES.

AS TO THE RECENT ENVIRONMENT, WE HAD ALERTED OUR FORCES OF INDICATIONS THAT IRANIAN UNITS MIGHT ATTEMPT TO CARRY OUT ATTACKS AGAINST OUR FORCES OVER THE JULY 4 HOLIDAY.

WE ARE STILL IN THE PROCESS OF RECONCILING AND COLLATING ALL THE DATA. AN OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION OF THE INCIDENT WILL BE CONDUCTED BY REAR ADMIRAL WILLIAM N. FOGARTY, USN, OF THE U.S. CENTRAL COMMAND. (END TEXT.)

4. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. ARMACOST
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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: SOPN
SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF TV NEWS CASTS JULY 3, 1988
A. ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT

1. PERSIAN GULF MISHAP - AS ADMIRAL CROWE REPORTED, THE
DOWNING OF THE CIVILIAN ATRLINER WAS NOT AN ISOLATED
INCIDENT. IT OCCURRED IN THE IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH OF A
SHOOTING FRACAS BETWEEN IRANIAN AND U.S. MILITARY
FORCES. (SAM DONALDSON)

TONIGHT IRANIAN TV BROADCAST THESE PICTURES IT SAID
SHOWED THE VICTIMS OF THE CRASH BEING RECOVERED FROM THE
GULF. IRAN ACCUSED THE UNITED STATES OF WHAT IT CALLED A
"BARBARIC MASSACRE" AND THREATENED REVENGE. (JOHN
LAWRENCE, LONDON)

ADMIRAL CROWE: "IT IS OUR JUDGMENT, BASED ON THE
INFORMATION CURRENTLY AVAILABLE, THE LOCAL COMMANDERS HAD
SUFFICIENT REASONS TO BELIEVE THEIR UNITS WERE IN
JEOPARDY AND THEY FIRED IN SELF-DEFENSE." THAT WAS THE
DIFFICULT CASE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS WAS LEFT
TO MAKE ON BEHALF OF THIS BUILDINGS CIVILIAN LEADERSHIP
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AND THE ADMINISTRATON ITSELF. IT BEGINS WITH AN AEGIS

CRUISER ALREADY IN A COMBAT MODE HAVING FIRED ON SEVERAL
IRANIAN PATROL BOATS JUST FIVE MINUTES BEFORE SPOTTING
FLIGHT 655 AS IT TOOK OFF FROM BANDAR ABBAS. CROWE:
"THE SUSPECT AIRCRAFT WAS OUTSIDE THE PRESCRIBED
COMMERCIAL AIR CORRIDOR. MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE AIRCRAFT
HEADED DIRECTLY FOR VINCENZE ON A CONSTANT BEARING AT
HIGH SPEED." THE AEGIS, THOUGH PACKED WITH RADAR AND THE

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MOST SOPHISTICATED ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT IN THE NAVY, THOUGHT IT WAS BEING ATTACKED BY AN AMERICAN BUILT F-14, SEVERAL OF WHICH HAD OPERATED IN THE AREA IN RECENT DAYS. TWO MINUTES AFTER SPOTTING THE APPROACHING AIRCRAFT IT ISSUED THE FIRST OF WHAT CROWE SAID WERE SEVEN WARNINGS. CROWE: "WE RECEIVED NO ANSWERS, NOR DID HE VARY COURSE, NOR DID HE INDICATE IN HIS CONDUCT IN ANYWAY THAT HE HAD RECEIVED OUR COMMUNIQUE."

AT THE TIME THE U.S. HAD NO AWACS OR OTHER RADAR AIRCRAFT ALOFT WHICH COULD HAVE PROVIDED POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION OF THE AIRBUS, NOR COULD THOSE ABOARD THE VINCENZE ACTUALLY SEE THE APPROACHING PLANE. DUE TO LIMITED VISIBILITY THE AIRCRAFT WAS NOT VISUALLY SIGHTED UNTIL THE MISSILE IMPACTED.

ONCE STANDARD MISSILES ARE FIRED THEY DIRECT THEMSELVES TOWARD THE FLYING OBJECT OF THE GREATEST SIZE EMITTING THE MOST HEAT. THE AIRBUS WAS A LUMBERING DUCK, AND FOR THAT CROWE BLAMED IRAN. CROWE: "IF A COUNTRY IS GOING TO WAGE COMBAT OPERATIONS IN A CERTAIN AREA AND THEN SEND A COMMERCIAL AIRLINE IN THE AREA DURING THAT, WELL, OF COURSE IT IS AN ACCIDENT WAITING TO HAPPEN."

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CROWE: "ONE OF THE MAJOR DIFFICULTIES IN THE GULF FROM THE OUTSET, WE ARE FIGHTING IN A LAKE, AND WHEN FLIGHTS COME FEET WET OUT OF IRAN, VERY FEW SECONDS, NO MATTER WHAT." TODAY'S TRAGEDY IS ALREADY BEING COMPARED TO THE 1983 SOVIET DESTRUCTION OF KOREAN AIRLINES FLIGHT 007. BUT THERE ARE CRITICAL DIFFERENCES. UNLIKE THE SOVIETS, THE U.S. WAS IN ACTIVE COMBAT AND THOUGHT IT WAS BEING ATTACKED, NOT SIMPLY SPYED UPON. AND WHILE IT TOOK THE SOVIETS NEARLY A WEEK EVEN TO ACKNOWLEDGE THEY HAD SHOT DOWN A CIVILIAN PLANE, TODAY THE U.S. STATED ITS ROLE AND EXPRESSED REGRET IN A MATTER OF HOURS. (BOB ZELNICK, PENTAGON)

2. WHITE HOUSE - IN THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT HE CALLS THIS A TERRIBLE HUMAN TRAGEDY, BUT NONETHELESS HE LABELLED IT A PROPER DEFENSIVE ACTION. HE PROMISED A FULL INVESTIGATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND HE SAID THE U.S. DEEPLY REGRETS ANY LOSS OF LIFE. (LARK MCCARTHY)

3. INTERVIEW WITH REP. TOM FOLEY: FOLEY SAID THE NAVY APPARENTLY ACTED PROPERLY BUT HE AGREED THAT THERE SHOULD BE A FULL INVESTIGATION AND, IN FACT, IT HAS ALREADY BEEN ORDERED BY THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT. BUT IT APPEARED THAT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCE THE NAVAL COMMANDER DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TIME TO MAKE A DETERMINATION AS TO WHETHER THIS WAS A HOSTILE AIRCRAFT OR NOT, AND HIS FIRST OBLIGATION IS TO

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PROTECT THE SHIP AND TO PROTECT HIS MEN, AND UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES IT IS EASY TO UNDERSTAND WHY HE COULDN'T WAIT VERY MUCH LONGER. HE THOUGHT THAT CRITICISM IS GOING TO FLOW FROM THIS. THE INCORRECT COMPARISON TO THE KOREAN 007 FLIGHT WILL BE MADE, BUT HE THOUGHT THERE WERE GREAT DIFFERENCES. THE CANDOR AND SPEED WITH WHICH WE ACCEPTED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACCIDENT, TRAGIC AS IT WAS, IS IMPORTANT AND WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE TO ALL OF OUR CITIZENS AND TO THE WORLD THE FULLEST INFORMATION THAT THE INVESTIGATION DISCLOSED.

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4. JESSE JACKSON - THE MOST CRITICAL STATEMENT SO FAR FROM A MAJOR POLITICAL LEADER IN THE UNITED STATES HAS COME FROM JESSE JACKSON WHO TALKED WITH REPORTERS IN CHICAGO. JESSE JACKSON: "IT IS A REGRETTABLE INCIDENT. IT IS ANOTHER RESULT OF OUR BEING IN THE GULF FOR MORE THAN A YEAR WITHOUT A DEFINED POLICY. THE CULMINATION OF THE GUIDED MISSILES AND A MISGUIDED POLICY HAS HEIGHTENED TENSIONS TREMENDOUSLY IN THE AREA." (SAM DONALDSON)

5. U.S. POLICY - EVER SINCE THE TAKEOVER OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN IRAN AND THE SEIZING OF AMERICAN HOSTAGES IN 1979, U.S. RELATIONS WITH IRAN HAVE BEEN HOSTILE. TODAY'S INCIDENT VIRTUALLY GUARANTEES THAT THEY WILL REMAIN SO. MANY ANALYSTS PREDICT IRANIAN RETALIATION. THE IRANIANS COULD TARGET U.S. FORCES IN THE GULF OR RESORT TO TERRORISM, OR POSSIBLY TAKE REVENGE BY ACTING AGAINST THE NINE U.S. HOSTAGES HELD BY PRO-IRANIAN FACTIONS IN LEBANON. ONE OBSERVER SAID TODAY OF THE HOSTAGES, "THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I HAVE FELT THEIR LIVES MAY BE SERIOUSLY ENDANGERED," BUT OTHERS DISAGREE. RECENTLY THERE HAVE BEEN SIGNALS THAT IRAN WAS TRYING TO END ITS ISOLATION IN THE WORLD COMMUNITY. IN MAY, THREE FRENCH HOSTAGES WERE RELEASED AND A SHORT TIME LATER DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH FRANCE RESUMED. THERE HAS BEEN SPECULATION THAT TERRY WAITE MIGHT BE FREED SOON AFTER IRANIAN CONTACTS WITH BRITISH OFFICIALS. AND THERE HAVE BEEN PERSISTENT REPORTS OF A PICK UP IN THE PACE OF U.S.-IRANIAN COMMUNICATIONS.

THESE SIGNS OF IRAN'S REACHING OUTWARD WERE BELIEVED TO REFLECT THE GROWING INFLUENCE OF MODERATE FACTIONS IN IRAN BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE REPORTED ILL HEALTH OF THE

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AYATOLLAH KHOMEINI, SERIOUS SETBACKS IN IRAN'S WAR WITH IRAQ, AND AN ECONOMY THAT IS IN STABLES ANALYSTS

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BELIEVE TODAY'S ACTION MAY CANCEL OUT ALL THOSE FACTORS
AND GIVE IRANIAN RADICALS THE UPPERHAND.

IN 1983, AFTER THE SOVIETS SHOT DOWN A KOREAN AIRLINER KILLING 269 CIVILIANS, SECRETARY OF STATE SHULTZ REACTED WITH OUTRAGE. SHULTZ: "THE UNITED STATES REACTS WITH REVULSION TO THIS ATTACK. LOSS OF LIFE APPEARS TO BE HEAVY. WE CAN SEE NO EXCUSE WHATSOEVER FOR THIS APPALLING ACT." U.S. OFFICIALS ARGUE THAT THIS INCIDENT IS NOT COMPARABLE BUT IT IS BOUND TO GIVE AMMUNITION TO DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN CRITICS OF U.S. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE GULF. ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS SAY THAT AS OF U.S. PRESENCE AND POLICIES REMAIN UNCHANGED. (JEANNE MESERVE, STATE DEPT)

B. NBC NIGHTLY NEWS

1. PERSIAN GULF - IT HAS BEEN ONE OF THE PENTAGON'S WORST NIGHTMARES, A SHOOTDOWN OF A CIVILIAN AIRLINER. ADMIRAL WILLIAM CROWE ANNOUNCED THE TERRIBLE ACCIDENT. IN A STATEMENT RELEASED BY THE WHITE HOUSE, PRESIDENT REAGAN EXPRESSED REGRET AND SAID HE WAS DEEPLY SADDENED OVER WHAT HE CALLED A TERRIBLE HUMAN TRAGEDY.

THE IMPACT OF THAT TRAGEDY WAS DRIVEN HOME BY PICTURES OF THE BODIES BEING RECOVERED FROM THE GULF WATERS. EYE WITNESSES REPORTED THAT WHEN THE U.S. MISSILE HIT, THE PLANE DISINTEGRATED. 290 PEOPLE WERE ON BOARD; THERE WERE NO SURVIVORS.

THE PLANE WAS AN IRANIAN AIRLINE AIRBUS. ITS ILL-FATED FLIGHT ACROSS THE GULF WOULD TAKE IT DIRECTLY OVER THE SCENE OF ACTIVE FIGHTING BETWEEN U.S. AND IRANIAN FORCES. TWO U.S. WARSHIPS HAD JUST ENGAGED IRANIAN
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GUNBOATS IN BATTLE. THE PENTAGON REPORT SAID THREE IRANIAN BOATS HAD FIRED AT A U.S. HELICOPTER BUT MISSED. THE TWO U.S. WARSHIPS RETURNED FIRE SINKING TWO IRANIAN BOATS AND DAMAGING A THIRD. FIVE MINUTES LATER THE VINCENZE DETECTED THE AIRBUS ON ITS RADAR CLOSING FAST. AFTER REPEATED WARNINGS, THE PLANE FAILED TO TURN. THE VINCENZE THOUGHT IT WAS AN IRANIAN F-14 FIGHTER JET ABOUT TO ATTACK AND FIRED TWO OF ITS MISSILES AT THE CIVILIAN PLANE.

THE U.S. INSISTS ITS FORCES FELT THREATENED AND A RESPONSE WAS PROPER. ADMIRAL CROWE DISPUTED ANY COMPARISON BETWEEN THIS INCIDENT AND THE SOVIET SHOOTDOWN OF KOREAN FLIGHT 007 FIVE YEARS AGO. HE SAID THIS IRANIAN PLANE WAS NEAR A COMBAT ZONE IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE. THE KOREAN PLANE WAS NOT. BUT OFFICIALS HERE

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ACKNOWLEDGE THAT DOES LITTLE TO DIMINISH THE TRAGEDY.
(JIM MIKLASZEWSKI, PENTAGON)

2. REACTION - OFFICIAL WASHINGTON REACTED WITH COLLECTIVE SHOCK. AT CAMP DAVID PRESIDENT REAGAN WAS AWAKEN JUST BEFORE FIVE THIS MORNING WITH NEWS OF THE CONFLICT, AND THEN THROUGHOUT THE DAY HE WAS BRIEFED IN REPEATED CONFERENCE CALLS BY DEFENSE SECRETARY CARLUCCI, SECRETARY OF STATE SHULTZ, NSC ADVISER COLIN POWELL, AND ADMIRAL CROWE. AS MEMBERS OF CONGRESS READ THE NEWS, THERE WAS QUESTIONS BUT MOST AGREED IT SHOULD NOT CHANGE U.S. POLICY IN THE PERSIAN GULF. REP. DIXON: "WE HAVE TO RESPOND WHEN THERE IS IMMINENT DANGER, AND I THINK HERE THERE WAS AN IMMINENT DANGER." SEN. LUGAR: "WE SHOULD NOT CHANGE OUR POLICY, OUR POLICY TO KEEP THE HIGH SEAS OPEN. WE'RE DOING THAT." FROM THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL, MICHAEL DUKAKIS SAID THE U.S. PLAINLY HAS THE RIGHT TO

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DEFEND ITSELF, BUT CALLED FOR A FULL INVESTIGATION. JESSE JACKSON SAID IT IS THE RESULT OF A MISGUIDED POLICY. VICE PRESIDENT BUSH HAD NO COMMENT THIS AFTERNOON.

IN RESPONSE THE WHITE HOUSE INFORMED THE UNITED NATIONS AND ALLIED LEADERS, AND U.S. EMBASSIES WERE PUT ON SPECIAL ALERT. FOREIGN POLICY EXPERTS PREDICTED A SWIFT IRANIAN RESPONSE. DESPITE SUCH THREAT, IT'S UNLIKELY THIS WILL CHANGE U.S. POLICY IN THE PERSIAN GULF. OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES DEPEND ON THE U.S. TO KEEP IRAN IN CHECK, AND AMERICAN HOSTAGES REMAIN CAPTIVE. IN SHORT, SUGGESTED ONE OBSERVER, THINGS COULDN'T GET MUCH WORSE.
(JAMIE GANGEL)

C. CBS EVENING NEWS

1. PERSIAN GULF - IRANIAN-U.S. RELATIONS ARE AT A FLASHPOINT TONIGHT FOLLOWING THE ADMISSION THAT THE U.S. ACCIDENTLY SHOTDOWN AN IRAN AIR JET, A CIVILIAN AIRPLANE WITH SOME 300 PEOPLE ON BOARD MANY OF THEM REPORTEDLY CHILDREN, ALL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE DIED. THE QUESTION IN WASHINGTON AND IN IRAN: HOW COULD SUCH A THING HAPPEN? THE PENTAGON ALREADY HAS ANNOUNCED AN INVESTIGATION WHICH MUST EXPLAIN HOW ONE OF THIS COUNTRY'S MOST SOPHISTICATED SHIPS MISTOOK A JUMBO JET AIRLINER FOR A JET FIGHTER.
(DAVID MARTIN, PENTAGON)

PRESIDENT REAGAN LEARNED OF THE TRAGEDY IN THE PERSIAN GULF AT HIS CAMP DAVID RETREAT. PRESIDENT REAGAN CALLED IT A TERRIBLE HUMAN TRAGEDY. WHILE OFFERING SYMPATHY TO FAMILIES OF VICTIMS, THE PRESIDENT DECLARED THAT THE VINCENZE WAS ENGAGED IN A PROPER DEFENSIVE ACTION.

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ADMINISTRATION SPOKESMEN STRESSED THAT U.S. POLICY IN THE GULF AIMED AT KEEPING THE SEA LANES OPEN WILL NOT CHANGE, BUT THE EPISODE IS SURE TO STIR NEW QUESTIONS ABOUT THE UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

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U.S. COMMITMENT. SOME MIDEAST ANALYSTS PREDICT THE INCIDENT WILL FORCE IRAN TO ACT. U.S. OFFICIALS ARE BRACING FOR AN ONSLAUGHT OF CRITICISM FROM FOREIGN ADVERSARIES COMPARING THIS SHOOTDOWN TO THE SOVIET ATTACK ON THE KAL PLANE. THE U.S. DEFENSE WILL BE THAT THIS PLANE WAS WARNED, AND WAS SHOT DOWN ONLY WHEN AN ELECTRONIC DEVICE GAVE WRONG INFORMATION. (ERIC ENBERG, WHITE HOUSE)

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TONIGHT SAID IT PROFOUNDLY REGRETTED THE LOSS OF LIFE, BUT ACCEPTED THE U.S. EXPLANATION FOR WHAT HAPPENED REFERRING TO "THE RIGHT OF FORCES ENGAGED IN SUCH HOSTILITIES TO DEFEND THEMSELVES." (SUSAN SPENCER)

IRAN ACCUSED THE UNITED STATES OF A BARBARIC MASSACRE AND REJECTED U.S. CLAIMS THAT THE ATTACK WAS A MISTAKE. IRANIAN TV SHOWED PICTURES OF BODIES BEING RECOVERED, AND SAID ALL THE MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN ON BOARD WERE FEARED DEAD. MORE THAN A HUNDRED BODIES HAVE ALREADY BEEN RECOVERED.

THE WARNING MESSAGE THE VINCENZE SENT TO THE AIRCRAFT WAS BROADCAST ON A GENERAL EMERGENCY FREQUENCY. ONE MILITARY EXPERT POINTED OUT TONIGHT THAT THE IRANIAN AIRLINER MIGHT NOT HAVE KNOWN THAT IT WAS THE AIRCRAFT THE VINCENZE WAS CALLING. IRAN TONIGHT WARNED THAT IT WILL RETALIATE. TEHRAN RADIO BROADCAST CHANTS OF "DEATH TO AMERICA," AND AN IRANIAN OFFICIAL HERE SAID THE SHOOTING DOWN OF THE AIRLINER WILL STRENGTHEN THE HANDS OF THE RADICALS IN HIS COUNTRY. HE PREDICTED THERE WILL BE ATTACKS ON AMERICANS AND AMERICAN INSTALLATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. (TOM FENTON, LONDON) UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

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D. THERE WERE NO FOREIGN POLICY INTERVIEWS ON THE SUNDAY TALK SHOWS. ARMACOST

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ACTION NEA-04

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USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3946

GULFWAR COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 03784

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, PREL, SCUL, EAIR, TC, IR, US

SUBJECT: LOCAL REACTION TO IRAN AIR TRAGEDY

1. THE DOWNING OF THE IRAN AIR JET BY U.S. NAVAL FORCES HAS HIT THE UAE HARD. PRESS ESTIMATES OF THE NUMBERS OF UAE NATIONALS KILLED VARY BETWEEN THIRTY AND FIFTY. AMONG THOSE IDENTIFIED BY THE PRESS ARE THE FATHER, STEPMOTHER, TWO STEP-BROTHERS, AND TWO STEP-SISTERS OF DUBAI POLICE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION CHIEF LT. COL. ABDULAZIZ MUHAMMAD ABDULLAH. PRESS ALSO SAYS THAT FIFTEEN INDIVIDUALS FROM TWO FAMILIES IN RAS AL-KHAIMAH WERE ON BOARD THE FLIGHT AND THAT A GULF AIR EMPLOYEE IN DUBAI LOST FOUR BROTHERS. IN ADDITION TO UAE NATIONALS, PRESS SPECULATES THAT MANY OF THE IRANIAN NATIONALS ON BOARD WERE EITHER RELATED TO OR CLOSE TO INDIVIDUALS IN DUBAI'S SUBSTANTIAL IRANIAN COMMUNITY. PRESS ALSO CITES UNI REPORT THAT SEVEN PASSENGERS WERE INDIAN, AND AT

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LEAST FOUR (IDENTIFIED AS PAKISTAN NAVAL ATTACHE IN TEHRAN, CAPT. MUNIR ARSHAD, HIS WIFE, AND TWO DAUGHTERS) WERE PAKISTANI.

2. BESIDES COVERAGE OF THE FACTS OF THE TRAGEDY, LOCAL PRESS FEATURES ON-THE-SCENE ACCOUNTS FROM DUBAI AIRPORT OF ANGUISH AND HYSTERIA AMONG FRIENDS AND RELATIVES WAITING FOR NEWS. FOR THE MOST PART, OTHER COVERAGE IS OBJECTIVE, ALTHOUGH DUBAI-BASED GULF NEWS IS HARSH FOR

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EXAMPLE BEGINNING ITS LEAD ARTICLE: "TWO HUNDRED AND NINETY CIVILIANS WERE BLOWN TO BITS IN MID-AIR ... IN WHAT PRESIDENT REAGAN INCREDIBLY DESCRIBED AS A PROPER DEFENSIVE ACTION."

3. THE SEMI-OFFICIAL, ABU DHABI-BASED ARABIC DAILY, AL-ITTIHAD, TOOK A BALANCED VIEW OF THE TRAGEDY IN ITS JULY 4 EDITORIAL, CALLING IT THE RESULT OF THE EIGHT-YEAR IRAN/IRAQ WAR. THE EDITORIAL GOES ON TO SAY THAT WHAT MATTERS IS NOT WHO IS GUILTY, BUT THAT IT COULD HAPPEN AGAIN ACCIDENTALLY. IN LIGHT OF THIS, THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES, ALL COUNTRIES SHOULD REALIZE THAT UN RESOLUTION 598 IS THE ONLY WAY TO END THE WAR. PEACE IS THE BEGINNING AND THE END, AND THE ONLY WAY TO PREVENT A SIMILAR DISASTER FROM HAPPENING.

4. ABU DHABI AND DUBAI TELEVISION, THE EVENING OF JULY 3, CARRIED FACTUAL ACCOUNTS OF THE CRASH, INCLUDING PRESIDENT'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF U.S. RESPONSIBILITY BUT DID NOT INCLUDE ANY COVERAGE OF RESCUE OPERATIONS, RECOVERY OF BODIES, OR THE LIKE. MACK

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ACTION NEA-11

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      NSAE-00  SSO-00  PM-10   EAP-00  PA-01  INRE-00  USIE-00
      SP-02   C-01   PRS-01  P-02
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INFO GULF WAR COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
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JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA
COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA
COMSEVENTHFLT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 TOKYO 12113

E.O.12356: ~~DECL: OADR~~
TAGS: PREL, MARR, MOPS, PTER, JA, IR, US
SUBJECT: GOJ AND MEDIA REACTION TO IRAN AIRLINER
- INCIDENT -

REF: STATE 214700 (NOTAL)

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: THE GOJ HAS EXPRESSED REGRET OVER THE LOSS OF LIFE IN THE DOWNING OF THE IRAN AIR JETLINER OVER THE PERSIAN GULF, BUT ADVISES THAT IT WILL REFRAIN FROM COMMENT ABOUT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INCIDENT. MOFA HAS STRESSED TO US THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING THE REGIME FOR THE PROTECTION OF CIVIL AVIATION ESTABLISHED AFTER THE KAL 007 INCIDENT. THUS FAR

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JAPANESE MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE INCIDENT HAS BEEN EXTENSIVE BUT STRAIGHTFORWARD. ATTENTION HAS FOCUSED ON THE PROBABLE CAUSE OF THE INCIDENT, INCLUDING THE OPERATION OF THE AEGIS SYSTEM WHICH THE GOJ HAS CONTRACTED TO PURCHASE FOR ITS OWN VESSELS. WHILE OFFICIAL GOJ AND PUBLIC REACTION TO THIS INCIDENT IS LIKELY TO BE CONSTRAINED BY AWARENESS OF THE ROLE THE U.S. PLAYS ON BEHALF OF THE WEST AND JAPAN IN THE GULF, MOFA BELIEVES THAT A U.S. APOLOGY FOR THE INCIDENT, ...

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GOING BEYOND THE STATEMENTS ~~OF REGRET~~ ~~WORLD PLAY WELL~~
 WITH THE JAPANESE PUBLIC. END SUMMARY.

3. NEWLY-APPOINTED MOFA NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS
 BUREAU/FIRST NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION DIRECTOR YUKIO
 OKAMOTO PROVIDED US WITH ADVANCE WORD OF THE OFFICIAL GOJ
 ANNOUNCEMENT THAT WAS MADE IN TOKYO AT MID-DAY TODAY
 (JULY 4) ON THE DOWNING OF AN IRANIAN AIRLINER BY U.S.
 NAVAL FORCES IN THE PERSIAN GULF. THE GOJ'S STATEMENT:

-- NOTES THAT THE USG HAS ALREADY EXPRESSED ITS OWN
 REGRET OVER THE UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT

-- STATES THAT THE GOJ, TOO, BELIEVES THAT THE TRAGIC
 LOSS OF LIFE IN THE INCIDENT IS "DEEPLY REGRETTABLE"

-- EXPRESSES GOJ CONDOLENCES FOR THE CRASH VICTIMS AND
 THEIR FAMILIES

-- EXPRESSES HOPE THAT SIMILAR INCIDENTS WILL NOT OCCUR
 AND THAT THE PRESENT SITUATION WILL NOT LEAD TO AN
 ESCALATION OF TENSIONS IN THE GULF

-- APPEALS FOR AN EARLY END TO THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR

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4. IN PROVIDING THE OUTLINE OF THE GOJ'S REACTION TO US,
 OKAMOTO SAID HE BELIEVED THAT THE TACK THE GOJ WAS TAKING
 WOULD BE IN LINE WITH OUR OWN REACTION: EXPRESSING SORROW
 AND REGRET OVER THE LOSS OF HUMAN LIFE BUT AVOIDING
 STATEMENTS REGARDING RESPONSIBILITY. THE GOJ WOULD HOLD
 FIRMLY TO THIS LINE IN RESPONSE TO MEDIA QUESTIONS ABOUT
 WHO WAS AT FAULT, HE SAID. AT THE SAME TIME, OKAMOTO
 SAID MOFA HAD HEARD THAT THE USG WOULD SHORTLY BRIEF ITS
 ALLIES ON THE INCIDENT. OKAMOTO SAID HE HOPED WE WOULD
 BE ABLE TO PROVIDE THE GOJ WITH ADDITIONAL DETAILS SOON.
 (FYI: AS THIS CABLE IS BEING DRAFTED, NHK AND OTHER TV
 NETWORKS ARE REPORTING THAT PRIME MINISTER TAKESHITA, NOW
 VISITING AUSTRALIA, MADE A STATEMENT TO THE MEDIA ALONG
 THE LINES OF PARA 3 ABOVE. END FYI)

5. MOFA NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU DEPUTY DG TOKINOYA
 TOLD POLCOUNS AT THE AMBASSADOR'S JULY 4TH RECEPTION
 THAT, IN HIS ESTIMATION, JAPANESE MEDIA AND PUBLIC
 REACTION TO THE INCIDENT WAS LIKELY TO BE CONSTRAINED BY
 AWARENESS OF THE ROLE THE U.S. PLAYS IN THE GULF ON
 BEHALF OF THE WEST AND JAPAN. AT THE SAME TIME, TOKINOYA
 CONTINUED, THERE MIGHT BE A NEED TO STUDY THE LEGAL
 IMPLICATIONS OF THIS INCIDENT IN LIGHT OF THE POSITION ON
 ATTACKS ON CIVIL AVIATION THAT JAPAN AND OTHER MEMBERS OF
 THE WEST HAD TAKEN IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE SOVIET

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-10	EUR-00	SS-00	CIAE-00	NSCE-00
	NSAE-00	SSO-00	PM-10	EAP-00	PA-01	INRE-00	USIE-00
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 FM AMEMBSSY TOKYO
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8310
 INFO GULF WAR COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
 SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 AMCONSUL MONTREAL
 USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 TOKYO 12113E.O.12356: ~~DECL. OADR~~

TAGS: PREL, MARR, MOPS, PTER, JA, IR, US

SUBJECT: GOJ AND MEDIA REACTION TO IRAN AIRLINER

DESTRUCTION OF THE KAL 007 JETLINER. IN MAKING THIS POINT, TOKINOYA SAID THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT NOT TO WEAKEN THE REGIME ON THE PROTECTION OF CIVIL AVIATION THAT HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED AFTER THE KAL INCIDENT. TOKINOYA ADDED THAT A STRAIGHTFORWARD U.S. APOLOGY FOR THE INCIDENT, GOING BEYOND THE EXPRESSIONS OF REGRET, WOULD PLAY VERY WELL WITH THE JAPANESE PUBLIC.

6. MORNING EDITIONS OF LOCAL NEWSPAPERS HAD GONE TO PRESS PRIOR TO THEIR RECEIPT OF THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT, BUT JAPANESE TELEVISION NETWORKS HAVE GIVEN EXTENSIVE BUT STRAIGHTFORWARD COVERAGE TO THE INCIDENT. NHK TELEVISION SIGNED ON THE AIR 30 MINUTES EARLY MONDAY

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MORNING (JULY 4) TO COVER THE STORY. NHK AND OTHER NETWORKS HAVE RUN EXTENSIVE FILM FOOTAGE OF THE CRASH SITE, WRECKAGE, EFFORTS TO RECOVER THE BODIES OF VICTIMS, AND THE OFFICIAL IRANIAN STATEMENTS ON THE INCIDENT MADE BY SENIOR IRANIAN OFFICIALS. THE NETWORKS, AFTER EMPHASIZING THAT NO JAPANESE NATIONALS WERE ABOARD THE FLIGHT, LED WITH USG JUSTIFICATION FOR THE ACTION, AND THEN THE U.S. EXPRESSION OF REGRET OVER THE LOSS OF LIFE. THE NETWORKS GAVE FULL COVERAGE TO PRESIDENT.

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REAGAN'S AND ADMIRAL CROWE'S STATEMENTS (REFTEL) NHK
AND OTHER TV NETWORKS ALSO REPORTED THE OFFICIAL
REACTIONS OF THE U.K., FRANCE, AND THE PRC DURING THEIR
MORNING BROADCASTS AND DESCRIBED SOVIET COVERAGE OF THE
INCIDENT AS FACTUAL AND WITHOUT ANY COMMENTARY.

7. JAPANESE NETWORKS ARE ALSO SPECULATING ABOUT WHAT
EFFECT THE INCIDENT MAY HAVE ON U.S. MIDDLE EAST POLICY
AND SUGGESTING THAT IRAN'S DIPLOMATIC POSITION IN THE
REGION COULD IMPROVE IN THE AFTERMATH OF THIS LATEST
US-IRANIAN CONFRONTATION. ONE MAJOR COMMERCIAL NETWORK
NOTED THAT WHILE THE IRANIANS CANNOT HOPE TO COMPETE WITH
THE U.S. MILITARILY, USING THIS INCIDENT, THEY WOULD PUT
FORWARD THEIR CASE TO THE COURT OF WORLD OPINION. MOST
MEDIA SPECULATION AT THIS POINT IS CENTERED AROUND THE
CAUSES OF THE INCIDENT, SPECIFICALLY, HOW THE IRANIAN
COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT COULD HAVE BEEN MISTAKEN FOR AN F-14
BY THE VINCENNES. IN THIS REGARD, THE NETWORKS ARE
MAKING EXTENSIVE USE OF FILE FOOTAGE ON AEGIS VESSELS
(INCLUDING THE VINCENNES) AND NOTING JAPAN'S OWN PLANS TO
PURCHASE THE AEGIS SYSTEM. THE MEDIA HAS CITED EXPERTS
AS ESTABLISHING THAT THE AEGIS SYSTEM IS EASILY CAPABLE
OF DISCRIMINATING BETWEEN A WIDE-BODY AIRCRAFT AND A
FIGHTER, AND THE PRESS IS SPECULATING THAT THE ATTACK WAS

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PROBABLY THEREFORE DUE TO HUMAN ERROR RATHER THAN
EQUIPMENT FAILURE.

8. COMMENT: WE WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW CLOSELY THE
JAPANESE OFFICIAL AND MEDIA REACTION TO THE INCIDENT. IN
THE MEANTIME, WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION WHICH
WE MIGHT SHARE WITH THE GOJ. END COMMENT.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Date. 9/18/9

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PAGE 01

ABU DH 03783 040938Z

ACTION NEA-11

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O 040935Z JUL 88

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0807

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL

JCS WASHDC

GULFWAR COLLECTIVE

CJTFME

AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ABU DHABI 03783E.O. 12356: ~~DECL. OADR~~

TAGS: PREL, TC, IR

SUBJECT: INITIAL UAE FOREIGN MINISTRY REACTION TO
- DESTRUCTION OF IRAN AIR JET

REF: ABU DHABI 3759

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. THE UAE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT/NOT YET REACTED OFFICIALLY TO SHOOT DOWN OF IRAN AIR PLANE. UNOFFICIALLY, DIRPOL AFFAIRS IN MFA, YAKUB AL-KINDI (SENIOR MFA OFFICIAL IN-COUNTRY) TOLD AMBASSADOR JULY 4 THAT WHILE LOSS OF LIFE WAS REGRETTABLE, PERHAPS THE TRAGEDY WOULD REFOCUS ATTENTION ON THE NEED FOR A POLITICAL END TO THE WAR. AMBASSADOR CALLED ON AL-KINDI, EXPRESSING REGRET FOR LOSS OF LIFE OF UAE NATIONALS. AL-KINDI ASKED FOR DETAILS OF THE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 02

ABU DH 03783 040938Z

EVENTS OF JULY 3 WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO U.S. NAVY ACTION IN ASSISTING THIRD FLAG SHIPPING. AMBASSADOR BRIEFLY RECOUNTED THAT IT HAD BEEN A BUSY DAY FOR JTFME INCLUDING FORCING IRANIANS TO BREAK OFF ONE ATTACK IN PROGRESS AND DISRUPTING SEVERAL OTHER APPROACHES OF IRANIAN SMALL CRAFT WHICH WERE ALMOST CERTAINLY ABOUT TO LAUNCH ATTACKS ON OTHER THIRD FLAG VESSELS. AMBASSADOR, FOLLOWING THE BRIEFING OF CJCS CROWE, NOTED THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS FROM THE

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OPENING OF FIRE BY IRANIAN PATROL BOATS THROUGH THE
ACCIDENTAL SHOOTDOWN OF THE IRAN AIR JET. AL-KINDI
FOCUSED ON THE CONTINUING NEED FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION
TO THE WAR AS THE ONLY WAY TO AVOID SUCH INCIDENTS.

3. COMMENT: UAE MAY HAVE LOST AS MANY AS 30-50
NATIONALS AND MANY MORE LONG-TERM RESIDENTS. EMOTIONS
ARE RUNNING HIGH IN SOME QUARTERS, AND PRESS
REACTIONS REFLECT THIS. FORTUNATELY, THE GOVERNMENT
IS TAKING A CAUTIOUS APPROACH TO EVENTS OF JULY 3.
AL-KINDI'S REMARKS INDICATED SATISFACTION WITH U.S.
ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF THIRD FLAG VESSELS. HE WAS
NOT AT ALL EMOTIONAL IN HIS REACTIONS AND KEPT HIS
FOCUS ON THE NEED FOR POLITICAL SOLUTION.
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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88STATE 214686

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PAGE 01 STATE 214686 TOSEC 130084
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APPROVED BY:S/S-O:CHUGGINS

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O 031645Z JUL 88 ZFF5
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ STATE 214686 TOSEC 130084

TERREP FOR THE SECRETARY

FOLLOWING STATE 214686 RPTED FOR YOUR INFO SENT ACTION
ALL DIP POSTS EMBASSY SPECIAL PROGRAM BEIRT KABUL DTD JUL3:
QTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 214686
TERREP, INFORM CONSULS

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: ASEC, PTER, CASC
SUBJECT: CRASH OF IRANAIR FLIGHT 655

1. (U) PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT AN IRANIAN AIRLINER
WITH AN ESTIMATED 290 PERSONS ABOARD HAS CRASHED IN THE
PERSIAN GULF. THE AIRCRAFT, IRAN AIR FLIGHT 655, WAS
ENROUTE FROM BANDAR ABBAS, IRAN, TO DUBAI, UNITED ARAB
EMIRATES. IRAN HAS CHARGED THAT THE AIRCRAFT WAS SHOT DOWN
BY U.S. FORCES IN THE GULF.

2. ~~(c)~~ WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF INVESTIGATING THE INCIDENT
TO ESTABLISH THE FACTS - . UNTIL WE HAVE
DONE SO, POSTS SHOULD MAKE NO/NO PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING
THE INCIDENT, EXCEPT TO SAY THAT AN URGENT INVESTIGATION
IS UNDERWAY. ALL/ALL PRESS INQUIRIES SHOULD BE REFERRED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 02 STATE 214686 TOSEC 130084

TO THE DEPARTMENT.

3. ~~(c)~~ IN LIGHT OF THIS INCIDENT, POSTS ARE ADVISED TO
ESTABLISH APPROPRIATE HEIGHTENED SECURITY MEASURES, TO
INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

A) WHERE DEEMED NECESSARY, CONTACT HOST GOVERNMENT POLICE
& SECURITY OFFICIALS, REQUESTING INCREASED SECURITY

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE 920393 IS/FPC/CDR 788 Date: 7/8/96	
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COVERAGE AT PRINCIPAL USG FACILITIES AND RESIDENCES.

B) IN MEETINGS WITH HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF DEMONSTRATIONS AND/OR RIOTS DIRECTED AT USG PERSONNEL AND INSTALLATIONS.

C) CONVENE THE EAC TO REVIEW CONTINGENCY PLANS AND TO DETERMINE WHETHER OTHER MEASURES ARE APPROPRIATE AT YOUR SPECIFIC POST.

D) POSTS ARE ASKED TO ENSURE THAT THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY, BOTH OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL, BE INFORMED OF OUR CONCERNS AND BE INSTRUCTED TO TAKE INCREASED PERSONAL SECURITY MEASURES.

4. ANY INCIDENTS WHICH, IN POST'S VIEW, ARE CAUSED OR ASCRIBED TO CURRENT GULF ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATELY.

5. PASS IMMEDIATELY TO ALL CONSULAR FACILITIES.

6. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. ARMACOST

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PAGE 03 STATE 214686 TOSEC 130084

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PAGE 01 ABU DH 03782
ACTION NEA-04

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O 040602Z JUL 88 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0806
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
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GULFWAR COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 03782

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL, TC
SUBJECT: LOCAL PRESS STATEMENT ON IRAN AIR BUS MATTER

1. THE EMBASSY FEELS COMPELLED TO RESPOND TO THE EMOTIONAL CLIMATE IN THE UAE FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF SCORES OF UAE RESIDENTS IN THIS TRAGEDY, INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE DUBAI POLICE CID. A NUMBER OF LOCAL FAMILIES HAVE SUFFERED LOSSES IN THIS INCIDENT INCLUDING SEVERAL PROMINENT OFFICIALS AND FRIENDS OF THE EMBASSY.

2. SHOULD WE NOT RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CONTRARY BY 0600Z, WE WILL ISSUE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA EXPRESSES ITS DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF THE VICTIMS WHO PERISHED ABOARD THE IRAN AIR JETLINER. OUR SYMPATHY GOES TO THE CITIZENS AND RESIDENTS OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES WHO WERE AFFECTED BY THIS TERRIBLE TRAGEDY.

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PAGE 02 ABU DH 03782 040605Z

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88MUSCAT003784

DEPARTMENT OF STATE 920393 IS/FPC/CDR *PBS* Date: 9/18/96

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ACTION NEA-11

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 NSAE-00 SSO-00 PM-10 FAAE-00 CCO-00 DOTE-00 INRE-00
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Z 030904Z JUL 88 ZFF4
 FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 5192

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ MUSCAT 03784

E.O. 12356: ~~DECL-GR~~
 TAGS: MOPS
 SUBJECT: DOWING OF IRANIAN AIRCRAFT

1. ~~C~~-- ENTIRE TEXT.
2. MUSCAT AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL (ATC) WHO IS IN CONTACT WITH DUBAI ATC REPORTS THAT AN IRAN AIR FLIGHT FROM BANDAR ABBAS TO DUBAI BROKE OFF COMMUNICATIONS APPROXIMATELY 15 MINUTES AFTER TAKE OFF FROM BANDAR ABBAS AT A DECLARED 7,000 FEET EN ROUTE TO 14,000 FEET. SAME SOURCE SAYS SON HAS SIGHTED WRECKAGE IN THE WATER AT 2609.04 N. 5553E.

3. THIS IS AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT BUT WE ARE REPORTING IT AS IT IS BEING DISCUSSED BY OPEN SOURCES IN THE AREA.

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88ABU DH003780

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE 9203931 IS/FPC/CDR 128 Date. 9/18/96

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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0804

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ABU DHABI 03780

E. O. 12356: DECL: ~~OADR~~

TAGS: MOPS, IR, US

SUBJECT: NATURE OF IRAN AIR DISASTER

1. (C- ENTIRE TEXT)

2. ITEMS WHICH MAY BE OF RELEVANCE TO WASHINGTON
EFFORTS TO FIGURE OUT NATURE OF IRAN AIR INCIDENT
ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(1) IRAN AIR OFFICE TOLD JAPANESE EMBASSY HERE THAT
PLANE WENT DOWN BETWEEN QESHM AND HENGEN ISLANDS.

(2) DUBAI AIRPORT TOWER NEVER HAD EITHER A RADAR
IMAGE OR VOICE CONTACT WITH THE MISSING AIRLINER.
THEY SIMPLY REPORTED THAT IT WAS OVERDUE BASED ON
INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM BANDAR ABBAS OF ITS
DEPARTURE.

(3) IRAN AIR OFFICE IN DUBAI IS REFUSING ALL REQUESTS,
INCLUDING DUBAI GOVERNMENT REQUESTS, FOR COPY OF THE
PASSENGER MANIFEST. MACK

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	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-01	CCO-00	OMB-01	INRE-00	ANAE-00
	USIE-00	SP-02	SNP-01	C-01	PRS-01	DS-01	DSE-00
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ABU DHABI 03759

E. O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MOPS, MARR, TC
SUBJECT: IRAN AIR DOWNING: SITREP AT 1500 JULY 3

1. (C- ENTIRE TEXT)
2. AT APPROXIMATELY 1305 LOCAL (ZULU PLUS 4) EMBASSY LEARNED OF REPORTS IN DUBAI THAT IRAN AIR AIRBUS HAD GONE DOWN ON APPROACH TO DUBAI AIRPORT. A FEW MINUTES LATER WE RECEIVED STILL UNCONFIRMED REPORT FROM CJTFME THAT AIRCRAFT MAY HAVE BEEN SHOT DOWN BY FIRE FROM USN SURFACE SHIP.
3. IN CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN CJTFME AND AMBASSADOR IT WAS AGREED THAT USS FAHRION, CURRENTLY VISITING PORT OF RAS AL-KHAIMAH, SHOULD CONCEL LIBERTY, SECURE ITSELF AND DEPART AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AS A PRECAUTION. IN-HOUSE SECURITY PRECAUTIONS ARE BEING TAKEN BY EMBASSY AND CONSULATE GENERAL DUBAI.

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PAGE 02 ABU DH 03759 031143Z

4. ALTHOUGH INFORMATION STILL UNCONFIRMED, EMBASSY PROVIDED ORAL BRIEF TO DEPARTMENT OPS CENTER AT APPROXIMATELY 1315 (5:15 EDT). WE ARE SEEKING FURTHER INFORMATION FROM AIR CONTROL IN DUBAI. IRANIAN NEWS REPORTS ARE CHARGING THAT US NAVY SHOT DOWN CIVILIAN AIRBUS AND THAT ALL PASSENGERS ARE FEARED DEAD. REPORTEDLY, WREACKAGE HAS BEEN SIGHTED WEST OF STRAITS OF HORMUZ WITH IRANIAN RESCUE CRAFT ON THE SCENE.

WITH IRANIAN
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5. NO AMERICAN COMMUNITY FUNCTIONS ARE PLANNED FOR JUNE 4, COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS IN QUBAI AND ABU DHABI HAVING TAKEN PLACE JULY 1. A FUNCTION IS PLANNED FOR INTERIOR TOWN OF AL-AIN ON JULY 6, AND WE ARE CONTACT-ORGANIZERS TO ADVISE THEM OF SITUATION. MACK

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Lebanon Plan for the PLO
Evacuation From West Beirut

August 1982

United States Department of State
Bureau of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPC/CDR 9200109 Date 3/18/96

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On August 20, 1982, President Reagan announced the agreement by the Governments of Lebanon, the United States, France, Italy, and Israel and by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to a plan for the departure from Lebanon of PLO leaders, offices, and combatants in Beirut.

Following are the President's statement and Secretary Shultz's news conference (excerpts relating to the Middle East), a fact sheet concerning details of the agreed-upon arrangements, the texts of the departure plan and schedule, the exchange of notes between the U.S. and Lebanese Governments, and President Reagan's letters to the U.N. Secretary General and the Congress.

**PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT,
AUG. 20, 1982**

Thank you all and let me just say in advance I'll be taking no questions because Secretary Shultz, a little later in the day, will be having a full press conference, so you can take everything up with him.

Ambassador Habib [Philip C. Habib, President's special emissary to the Middle East] has informed me that a plan to resolve the west Beirut crisis has been agreed upon by all the parties involved. As part of this plan, the Government of Lebanon has requested, and I have approved, the deployment of U.S. forces to Beirut as part of a multinational force (MNF). The negotiations to develop this plan have been extremely complex and have been conducted in the most

arduous circumstances. At times it was difficult to imagine how agreement could be reached and yet it has been reached. The statesmanship and the courage of President Sarkis and his colleagues in the Lebanese Government deserve special recognition as does the magnificent work of Ambassador Habib. Phil never lost hope and in the end his spirit and determination carried the day, and we all owe him a debt of gratitude.

The parties who made this plan possible have a special responsibility for insuring its successful completion, or implementation. I expect its terms to be carried out in good faith and in accordance with the agreed timetable. This will require meticulous adherence to the cease-fire. Violations by any party would imperil the plan and bring renewed bloodshed and tragedy to the people of Beirut and under no circumstances must that be allowed to happen. As you know, my agreement to include U.S. forces in a multinational force was essential for our success. In the days ahead, they and forces from France and Italy will be playing an important but carefully limited noncombatant role. The parties to the plan have agreed to this role and have provided assurances on the safety of our forces.

Our purpose will be to assist the Lebanese Armed Forces in carrying out their responsibility for insuring the departure of PLO leaders, offices, and combatants in Beirut from Lebanese territory under safe and orderly conditions. The presence of U.S. forces also will facilitate the restoration of the

sovereignty and authority of the Lebanese Government over the Beirut area. In no case will our troops stay longer than 30 days. The participation of France and Italy in this effort is further evidence of the sense of responsibility of these good friends of the United States.

Successful resolution of the west Beirut crisis by responsible implementation of the plan now agreed will set the stage for the urgent international action required to restore Lebanon's full sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity; obtain the rapid withdrawal of all foreign forces from that country; and help insure the security of northern Israel. We must also move quickly in the context of Camp David to resolve the Palestinian issue in all its aspects, as well as the other unresolved problems in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Only when all these steps are accomplished can true and lasting peace and security be achieved in the Middle East.

**SECRETARY SHULTZ'S
NEWS CONFERENCE, AUG. 20, 1982**

The President today announced that a plan to resolve the crisis in west Beirut has been agreed upon by all the parties, and that in connection with that plan the Government of Lebanon has asked the United States, and the President has agreed, to the deployment of U.S. forces as part of a multinational force to help the Government of Lebanon to implement the plan.

He also expressed his admiration and his thanks to Phil Habib, and I

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would like to take this occasion to add my thanks to Phil, a truly great American.

The President also said that I would answer the questions, so here I am.

Q. Have American-Israeli relations suffered because of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon; and on a broader scale, how do you judge the impact of the fighting on American-Arab relations?

A. The Israeli-U.S. relationship remains a strong one. We are completely committed to the support of the security of Israel. Certainly there have been some strains during this period. The United States opposed the entry of Israeli troops into Lebanon. There were some occasions when it seemed to us that the Israeli military actions were excessive, and we said so. So those times presented great strains. But underneath it all the relationship between the United States and Israel remains a strong one.

There's no question about the fact—turning to the second part of your question—that our relationships with our friends in the Arab world have been strained, and understandably so, as they have seen the suffering in Lebanon and the great destruction in Beirut. We seek to resolve those issues. I think the constructive role that the United States has played in the development of this plan, and Phil Habib's actions, show the fundamental commitment of the United States to peaceful solutions and the ability of the United States to be a constructive force in the region.

Q. Following withdrawal of Palestinian forces from west Beirut, do we expect the Israelis to attack other Palestinian and Syrian forces in the country, and what, if anything, are we trying to do to prevent that from happening?

A. What we expect and what we hope for is that as this process unfolds the Government of Lebanon will be able to take control, first in Beirut, then increasingly throughout the country. And that the forces of Israel, the forces of Syria, the forces of other armed groups in the country will withdraw or lay down their arms and Lebanon will become a country free of foreign forces.

I might note that in the plan, if you look at the first section, which is labeled "Basic Concept," you'll see that this notion is explicitly stated as being consistent with the objectives of the plan.

Q. I wonder if you could amplify what the President said. He said that if American forces were shot at, there would be a recall of U.S. forces. In that sort of violent environment, it is possible for stray bullets to be flying. Would a single shot result in an American call-back?

A. The President was not referring to some stray shot by some kook that might be fired. We're talking about a situation in which all the parties have agreed to a cease-fire and have agreed to establish the conditions under which the departure of the PLO can take place with safety. We are there to help in that process, help the Government of Lebanon in that process. We will stay there as long as that process is going forward and as long as the basic conditions envisaged for our forces remain in effect.

Q. We've heard a lot about Ambassador Habib's role in all of this. What do you envision as his role in the next phase which is the evacuation of all foreign troops from Lebanon?

A. He's a very skillful man. He's been over there since early June, and I think he deserves a good night's sleep. But he's very skillful and very capable, and he told me on one occasion that he never says no to a President. So I imagine his talents will be called upon from time to time in the future.

Q. Has the Government of Israel given you any assurances that they intend to withdraw from Lebanon in the near future?

A. When Foreign Minister Shamir was here, I asked him that question directly. He told me that Israel does not covet one inch of Lebanese territory and plans to withdraw from Lebanese territory. I looked at him and I said, "We will take you at your word."

Q. On the previous question on Mr. Habib—is it contemplated that Mr. Habib will conduct the next round of negotiations on the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon, and do you have any time frame in mind, and the venue, on how and when these talks should begin?

A. I think that it is important to be working strongly not only for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon, but for that to happen in such a manner that the Government of Lebanon has strength and the security concerns of Israel and its northern border are adequately safeguarded.

Beyond that, I think, we must recognize that there has been a tremendous

impact of destruction and displacement in Lebanon. The extent of it varies widely in peoples' estimates but even the most modest estimates show that it's considerable. We and others around the world need to address ourselves to those problems and start thinking in constructive terms about what needs to be done to help the people of Lebanon reconstruct their land and bring it back to the conditions that it once enjoyed.

Q. Will Mr. Habib actually do the negotiating for the United States?

A. Phil's precise role has not been determined. As I said, he has been at it for a couple of months of very tiring work, and it's time for him to get a good night's sleep. We do plan to have a Lebanon task force in the government and Morris Draper, who has been Phil's assistant, will head that up; Peter McPherson, the head of the Agency for International Development, is going to take on the special concern of the reconstruction and development aspects of this plan. Some other people are being put in place to work on this. I don't say that Phil will have no role in it. He's a very constructive and able person, but I do think at this point that he'll obviously want to see the departure go on in a good way. But at some stage of the game, as I say, we have to give him a good night's sleep.

Q. It's not clear to me, in the way you answered some of the earlier questions, whether you expect further negotiations to take place to obtain the withdrawal of the Syrians and the Israelis or whether you expect them to do that voluntarily, without any further diplomatic activity. Could you clarify that a little bit?

A. I'm sure that the Syrians must feel that they, having been invited in by the Government of Lebanon, would expect to hear from the Government of Lebanon about its wishes. Again, I was told by the Syrian Foreign Minister that they were there at the request of the Government of Lebanon and when the Government of Lebanon requested them to leave, they would do so.

So I think what we are looking at here is a process in which the Government of Lebanon increasingly takes control; and as that happens and as security arrangements on Israel's northern border can be adequately developed, we should expect to see these forces withdraw. I can't tell you that all that can

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take place in an easy, uncomplicated way. There's no doubt about the fact that it will be complicated and difficult.

Q. How long do you think it will take?

A. I can't tell you.

Q. There is talk of an Israeli-Lebanese peace treaty as the next step after withdrawal. Will the United States actively support such a peace treaty?

A. I think it is constructive to have peace in that part of the world. With the emergence of a strong and legitimate Government of Lebanon, that is certainly something we would hope they would consider very strongly.

Q. But will we actively support it?
A. Sure.

Q. What is the possibility of the use of American troops in some type of multinational force such as is going into Beirut now to facilitate the withdrawal of Israeli and Syrian troops from Lebanon itself?

A. We don't have any plan for that at all.

Q. Will this be used as a precedent, do you think?

A. No, I don't think so.

Q. Do you foresee the formation of a Palestinian state at some point? If so, when, and what are you going to do with all these Palestinians that you are splitting up and sending to all these various countries, just leave them there?

A. The Palestinians that are departing from west Beirut probably number in the range of 6,000-7,000, and that is a number than can be assimilated. Where they go eventually, of course, remains to be seen. I do think, and have emphasized before—and practically everybody who talks about the subject emphasizes—the importance of turning to the problems of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, working at that, and negotiating about that.

My own observation is that the language of Camp David is quite worth reading in that regard. So we would expect to be moving on that front, as I'm sure others will too, because it represents an underlying issue of great importance and is one that is at the center of all this.

Q. Since you brought up Camp David, could you give us, as best you can foresee it now, the startup again of the autonomy talks, the timetable,

including whether or not you are going to appoint a new special negotiator at any time in the near future?

A. I can't really comment with any clarity on those questions. Obviously, the parties to those talks are heavily engaged in their thinking in the west Beirut problem. It will take some time and a lot of effort to construct a suitable negotiating situation, and I don't want to put down some sort of marker on it.

Q. Ambassador Habib is quoted as telling Prime Minister Begin that he thought it was Israel's military pressure which brought the PLO to agree finally to leave Beirut. Do you agree with that assessment?

A. I'm not going to try to analyze what may or may not have brought the PLO to agree to leave west Beirut. Fairly early on they had made a statement in principle that they would withdraw. We went through a long period of trying to identify where they would go, and during that period there were many doubts expressed about whether in the end they would go. We felt that they had said they would, and we would take them at their word and expect that they would.

Q. But the greatest progress was made in the negotiations, wasn't it, after August 1 when the heaviest Israeli bombings took place?

A. The discussions that gave more and more assurance as to where they would go materialized obviously as these negotiations went on. It was quite a struggle at first and became more definite.

Q. How do you intend to try to blend, or what is your own sense of priorities about resolving the rest of the issues in Lebanon, getting the foreign forces out, etc., and dealing with the Palestinian problem on the West Bank and Gaza?

A. Both issues are important. There is, obviously, some connection between them, but they are also separate issues. I think we, obviously, have to work—it's my opinion obviously, anyway—on both. It is difficult to lay down a timetable, but both are matters of urgency. I think that this moment in time—with the bloodshed and the damage done in Lebanon freshly in peoples' minds—is a time to work hard on this, because people must be able to see that the alternative to a reasonably peaceful situation in the Middle East is not a pleasant thing to contemplate at all. So perhaps it is a moment when people can turn their eyes from the problems of war to the problems of peace—at least I hope so—and that is going to be our effort.

Q. Specifically what steps is the United States prepared to take to get the autonomy talks moving again?

A. We are working on that, talking about it, and trying to develop our own thinking, as I'm sure others are. When we have gotten our thoughts properly constructed, we will be able to tell you what they are. I have been thinking about that myself, obviously, before I came into the government and ever since I've been here at the President's direction. I've had several meetings with the President about it. At his instruction, I've been meeting with Members of the Congress, we have had people come in from outside, and we've had lots of discussion about this as various ministers from Israel and Arab countries have visited here. So we are actively thinking about it. And we expect to be in moving on it.

Q. Along those lines, the biggest and most dramatic impact of all this, at least for the moment, is the breaking up of the PLO into composite groups moving into different parts of the Middle East. What effect do you think this is going to have on the peace prospects in the region? And do you agree with those who feel that makes it less urgent for the Palestinian issue to be addressed?

A. I think that it makes it more urgent because to the extent the armed and, I think, disruptive presence of the PLO and their impact on Israel and perhaps on some of the problems in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is less, then perhaps the opportunities are more. Rather than feel—if that particular pressure is off—you should relax, my attitude would be exactly the opposite: If the opportunity is greater, you should move in harder and faster and try to take advantage of it.

Q. What is your position on Jewish settlements, either new settlements or the expansion of the existing ones in the occupied territories?

A. The President has said to me recently, when a question arose about their legality, the question isn't whether they are legal or illegal; the question is are they constructive in the effort to arrange a situation that may, in the end, be a peaceful one and be one in which the people of the region can live in a manner that they prefer. His answer to that is no, expansion of those settlements is not a constructive move. I agree with the President. I really do agree with it. I'm not just following his lead.

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Q. Next month is the deadline within the Lebanese constitutional framework for a presidential election. Security is one of the reasons cited why the election was put off until next week and might be put off again. Obviously, in general, the United States has a lot of influence in a situation like this right now. It has gained more influence; it's having forces coming in there which will help provide security. What are your views on the holding of the Lebanese presidential election? Should it be in the next month, as originally planned?

A. I think, basically, the conduct of an election in a country, the development of its own governmental processes, and the identification of the president and other officials of the country are matters for that country. The role of the United States is, as we are, to be helpful to the Government of Lebanon, at their request, as they seek to take control of Beirut and the country generally. Beyond that, I think the issue of the election of a new president and other related matters are essentially a matter for the Government of Lebanon, not for us.

Q. In the wake of what Menahem Begin calls a great victory, what would make you believe that Israel would become more flexible in terms of dealing with the Palestinian problem? And has the Government of Israel given us any assurances that they would be willing to discuss this more amenably?

A. What the outcome of discussions will be and how much flexibility will be shown by various parties to it remains to be seen. I think that the prospect of peace, particularly in the light of the conflict in Lebanon that we've seen recently—and for that matter, the conflict in Lebanon that has been going on since 1975—should convince people that if there is any genuine prospect of peace, it should be seized. Perhaps that will be an incentive for everyone to give and take and try to construct something that might work.

Q. Do you believe that the PLO has any role to play in the negotiations process, or do you think that it does not represent the Palestinian people and is better not involved?

A. As far as the United States is concerned, the President has set out well-known conditions for any contacts between the United States and the PLO directly, and we stand by those condi-

tions. If the PLO meets those conditions, obviously the United States would be willing to talk with them. Whether others would be willing to talk with them, those others will have to say for themselves.

I think it is quite clear that, if there is to be a negotiation, that has as one of its center objectives meeting the legitimate concerns of the Palestinian people, there have to be representatives of the Palestinian people involved in those negotiations. No one accepts a result that they didn't have any part in. Who that should be remains to be seen. I don't know the answer to that question, but I know that an answer to it needs to be found.

Q. Could you give us an idea of how much U.S. funding is going to be involved in the evacuation and whether or not we will be reimbursed?

A. I don't think that what funding we supply we will be reimbursed for. We have, I think, committed around \$2 million by now for the chartering of ships and things of that kind, and perhaps we will spend a little bit more money on that sort of thing. Others will also bear some expense as they receive the PLO contingents that come to their countries, so it will be a shared expense. That is the order of magnitude, and I don't see where any reimbursement would come from.

Q. Your fact sheet states U.S. troops will go in probably 5 or 6 days after the evacuation begins.

A. That's right.

Q. Is there a trigger mechanism for that to happen? Is there some condition to be met before those U.S. troops go in?

A. Just that we observe that the conditions precedent to the whole operation are in force and the departures are taking place as scheduled and there is a basically nonhostile environment.

Q. What is going to happen now to Yasser Arafat and other PLO leaders, and have you received any assurances from the PLO indirectly that there will not be any further terrorist attacks on Israel, either through Jordan or perhaps through Syria? What assurances?

A. I think by this time perhaps people can see that what terrorism evokes

is not so much fear but abhorrence from the world community. It is unfortunate that there is such an amount of terrorism. But I think by this time people are pretty well convinced that it's something bad all around, and very strong measures increasingly are being taken against it. I would imagine that any capable analytical person would be able to see that.

Q. During this news conference I've been informed that President Carter has charged that—

A. I think it's a little tough on me—

Q. I know.

A. —that you get some information—

Q. —I apologize that it's only happened—

A. —that comes in while I'm here that I don't have access to it. It's like sitting in front of the Senate for confirmation. All those fellows are going in and out—and ladies—all the time, and I'm just sitting there. I don't know what has happened.

Q. I will explain to you what has happened, as far as I know—

A. You're blind siding me.

Q. —and I don't think you'll be totally blind sided because it's not the first time we've heard this charge, but I've been told that President Carter—and I cannot vouch for the truth of whether he actually said it or not—has charged that Washington gave the go-ahead to Israel for the invasion of Lebanon. I'm sure that I'm not blind siding you because that you've heard from other sources before. Can you answer that charge?

A. It is not correct.

Q. Did not Secretary of State Haig, your predecessor, know in advance that Israel was going to strike into Lebanon?

A. My understanding is that the U.S. Government was not informed, and the U.S. Government was and is on the record as having opposed that invasion. Whether somebody came through here and talked about it as a possibility, I don't know. People talk about all kinds of possibilities.

Q. Who goes in first? Who's the advance element that's spoken of, if it's not American forces?

A. You mean in the Beirut situation?

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Q. In Beirut, right.

A. I think that's in all the fact material. The first element of the multinational force is the French with about 350. Let me correct that. It basically is the responsibility of the Government of Lebanon and their armed forces to provide for the safety of these departures and, of course, to take control of the city and their country. The multinational force is there to assist the Government of Lebanon.

The first contingent is the French contingent of about 350 who will be stationed, I think, in the immediate port area in the beginning. The U.S. troops, the balance of the French, and the Italian will enter about 5 days after the departures start.

Q. You just talked about the necessity of addressing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in the next phase after Beirut. Are you willing to tell us whether those legitimate rights include the rights for self-determination and independence? In other words, what's your definition of these legitimate rights for the Palestinians?

A. Precisely what that will wind up meaning will have to emerge from a negotiation, I'm sure. The words "self-determination" seem to have taken on terms of art. But I would say, as I've indicated earlier, if people are going to accept some solution, they have to have a part in forming it. Certainly one would expect, as the language of Camp David makes clear, that the Palestinians should have a role in determining the conditions under which they will be governed.

Q. In going through the agreement, I don't see anything mentioned about verifying that the PLO has, in fact, left Beirut. Maybe I just passed over it, but I wondered if you could address that problem?

A. Arrangements have been made to, in effect, check off people as they leave so that there is a verification of how many people have left and so on, and where they have gone. That process will be undertaken, and I believe that is basically a responsibility of the Government of Lebanon to do.

Q. You just mentioned in one of your answers that Arab-American relations are now strained. It doesn't seem to have passed on to some of those Arab governments that when the United States made clear to Israel what the United States wanted, Israel did stop the bombing. Looking to the future, do you intend again to make

clear to Israel to really pursue a negotiated solution which will be acceptable to all parties in the Middle East?

A. My hope is that everyone will look at what has happened in the last few weeks and feel that it means that we must all concentrate on creating a just peace. This shining objective will be the principal motivating force for everyone.

Q. Can I just come back to Camp David? You've talked a lot about peace and rights of Palestinians, and you also talked about Camp David. Before the Lebanon crisis erupted, Secretary Haig was about to launch into an intensified effort to revive the talks between Egypt and Israel on the ground rules for the self-governing authority, as it's called, as well as other leftover points that hadn't been negotiated.

Are you looking for ways beyond this, or are you willing to continue that negotiating track which has been on and off for the last several years as a first step toward this interim solution which is called for in Camp David? I'm not sure whether you want to stay with Camp David or not.

A. The language of Camp David, as I read it, has lots of room for ideas as to how the situation might be arranged. I have been listening to many people. You mentioned Dr. Kissinger and others—Sol Linowitz, Irving Shapiro, Larry Silberman, Members of Congress—talking with the President. We're trying to form our ideas about what we think in a general way should be a reasonable outcome and what kind of process will get us there. As I said at the beginning of this statement, there is a lot of room within the Camp David language, and I think when you see a situation like that it's worthwhile to preserve that.

Q. A lot of room for what?

A. A lot of room for many different interpretations as to what that language means, but it's just the kind of language that is generally used, and I recognize that different people put different meanings on it.

Q. Your fact sheet that your department handed out about the sending of these forces suggests strongly that you plan to report to Congress under the War Powers Act under a provision which is not binding in the sense that the troops are not required to be out after 60 days. As you know, the Chairman of the House Foreign

Affairs Committee, Mr. Zablocki, and of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Mr. Percy, argue that it should be under the more binding provision because of both the situation and the precedent involved. In that view is it correct that you're planning, as this suggests, but doesn't exactly say, to go under the nonbinding provision and, if so, why?

A. The President will make a decision about what section of the War Powers Act to use at the time of the introduction of American forces. I believe under the law he's required to make that statement within 48 hours of their deployment, and I'm sure that he will do so. He'll have to decide at the time what is the right section.

I would say this: that, first of all, the President has stated explicitly that we have a 30-day time limit here, and that is right in the plan, rather than 60 days as your question suggested. Second, if we have a basically peaceful departure situation in west Beirut and this government announces that its forces are going in under what it considers conditions of imminent hostility, I wonder what the message is?

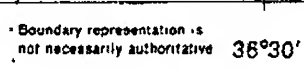
I think we have to be cognizant of what the real facts are on the ground and suit our determination to that. I believe the President will certainly be doing that, and I don't want to prejudice what decision he will make. But I think the basis for the decision should be the conditions on the ground rather than some notion about the number of days or something of that kind. The President has already specified the limit on the number of days.

Q. Would you just finish up the Camp David questions that have been brought up? What evidence is there today that President Mubarak is as anxious to proceed along the framework of Camp David, no matter how you work within this large framework, as was his predecessor? There's some evidence he is not that keen, is there not?

A. I think that, as we noted earlier, people throughout the Arab world are very upset about the events in Lebanon, and it has had a profound effect on their attitudes. I know that. That will represent a problem that we'll have to contend with. As we go along here we certainly expect to work with President Mubarak and the Egyptians. They have been an essential part of this whole peace process, and I would have every expectation that in the end they will still want to be a part of the peace process.

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FACT SHEET

Plan for the Departure of the PLO

A plan for the departure from Lebanon of the PLO leaders, offices, and combatants in Beirut has been accepted by the Governments of Lebanon, the troop-contributing countries, and Israel and by the PLO. That plan includes a schedule of departures which is also attached to the bilateral notes exchanged between the Government of Lebanon and the troop-contributing countries.

The PLO will go to various countries in the region including Jordan, Iraq, Tunisia, North Yemen, South Yemen, Syria, Sudan, and Algeria.

Departing PLO personnel will be accompanied by a proportionate share of the military and political leadership throughout all stages of the departure arrangements.

The PLO will turn over to the Lebanese Armed Forces their heavy and crew-served weapons, spare weaponry and equipment along with all munitions left behind in the Beirut area. They and the Arab Deterrent Force will also provide detailed information on the location of mines and booby traps to the Lebanese Armed Forces. On departure, PLO personnel may carry with them an individual side weapon and ammunition.

The Arab Deterrent Force (i.e., the Syrians) and those forces attached to the Arab Deterrent Force will also redeploy from Beirut during the period of the PLO departure. The Syrian military forces will take their equipment with them except for that which, by mutual agreement, is turned over to the Lebanese Armed Forces.

MNF Composition, Area of Operations, and Mission

Force Composition. The multinational force, which will be deployed to the Beirut area at the request of the Government of Lebanon, will be comprised of approximately 400 Italian, 800 French, and 800 U.S. military personnel. The U.S. portion of the MNF will be comprised of Marines of the 32d Marine Amphibious Unit presently serving with elements of the Sixth Fleet on duty in the eastern Mediterranean.

Area of Operations. The MNF will operate in and around the Beirut area. It will take up positions and operate from locations determined by mutual

agreement between the various national contingents and the Lebanese Armed Forces through the mechanism of a Liaison and Coordination Committee.

Mission. The multinational force will assist the Lebanese Armed Forces in carrying out its responsibilities for insuring the safe and orderly departure from Lebanon of the PLO leaders, offices, and combatants in a manner which will insure the safety of other persons in the area, and which will further the restoration of the sovereignty and authority of the Government of Lebanon over the Beirut area.

Duration of the MNF Mandate. It has been mutually agreed between the Government of Lebanon and those governments contributing forces to the MNF that these forces will depart Lebanon not later than 30 days after arrival, or sooner at the request of the Government of Lebanon or at the direction of the individual government concerned. There is also provision for the immediate termination of the mandate of the MNF and for its withdrawal from Beirut in the event that the departure from Lebanon of PLO personnel does not take place in accord with the predetermined schedule.

Role and Mission of U.S. Forces in Beirut

U.S. forces will be deployed to Beirut as part of the multinational force based on an agreement between the U.S. Government and the Government of Lebanon.

The U.S. contingent of the multinational force will provide appropriate assistance to the Lebanese Armed Forces as they carry out their responsibilities concerning the withdrawal of PLO personnel in Beirut from Lebanese territory under safe and orderly conditions. The presence of U.S. forces also will facilitate the restoration of Lebanese Government sovereignty and authority over the Beirut area.

U.S. forces will enter Beirut after the evacuation is well underway (probably 5 or 6 days thereafter) in concert with the Italian MNF contingent and the remainder of the French force. Approximately 800 Marines from Sixth Fleet units will be deployed. Command

authority for the Marines will be exercised by the National Command Authority (NCA) through normal American military channels (EUCOM). These forces will not engage in combat but may exercise the right of self-defense. They will have freedom of movement and the right to undertake actions necessary to perform their mission or to support their personnel. U.S. personnel will be armed with usual infantry weapons.

Close coordination will be maintained with the Lebanese Armed Forces. There will be an exchange of liaison officers among the elements of the MNF and the Lebanese Armed Forces. A Liaison and Coordination Committee composed of representatives from the U.S., French, Italian, and Lebanese armed forces will assist this process. The Government of Lebanon and the Lebanese Armed Forces are taking measures necessary to insure the protection of U.S. forces including having secured assurances from armed elements that they will comply with the cease-fire and cessation of hostilities.

The U.S. contingent will be in Beirut for no more than 30 days.

War Powers Resolution

The War Powers Resolution requires a report to Congress within 48 hours after the introduction of U.S. Armed Forces: (1) into foreign territory while equipped for combat; or (2) into hostilities or situations where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances.

There is no intention or expectation that U.S. forces will become involved in hostilities in Beirut. They will be in Lebanon at the formal request of the Government of Lebanon; we will have assurances regarding the safety and security of the multinational force. Although we cannot rule out isolated acts of violence, all appropriate precautions will be taken to assure the safety of U.S. military personnel during their brief assignment to Lebanon.

These matters will, in any event, be kept under constant review, and the President will report to Congress consistent with the reporting requirements of the War Powers Resolution.

Agreements and Assurances

U.S. forces will participate in the multinational force in Beirut pursuant to an agreement between the U.S. Government and the Government of Lebanon.

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DEPARTURE PLAN

PLAN FOR THE DEPARTURE FROM LEBANON OF THE PLO LEADERSHIP, OFFICES, AND COMBATANTS IN BEIRUT

That agreement is in the form of an exchange of notes signed by Ambassador Dillon on behalf of the U.S. Government and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Boutros on behalf of the Lebanese Government.

The agreement describes the missions of the Lebanese Armed Forces, the MNF, and the U.S. forces participating in the MNF. It contains provisions concerning command authority for U.S. forces, coordination with the Lebanese Armed Forces and immunities of U.S. personnel. Annexed to the agreement is the schedule for the PLO departure from Beirut.

In accordance with the agreement, the Government of Lebanon has secured assurances from all armed elements not now under the authority of the Lebanese Government that they will comply with the cease-fire and cessation of hostilities. The Government of Israel has provided appropriate assurances.

Role of the ICRC in Moving the PLO from West Beirut

The role envisaged for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in moving the PLO from west Beirut is still being finalized on the basis of discussions in Geneva and Beirut.

In accordance with its charter, the ICRC will be expected to care for the sick and wounded combatants while in transit. Initially, the ICRC will arrange transport and provide medical care for the sick and wounded PLO personnel going to Greece.

Financing the Departure of the PLO From West Beirut

The cost of chartering transport of the PLO combatants to receiving countries will be funded through international organizations. The United States is prepared to provide initial funding from State Department funds.

Estimates regarding the cost of evacuating PLO forces from west Beirut currently range from \$2 to \$4 million. This figure could be increased, however, as the number of people to be transported and their ultimate destinations are finalized.

1. Basic Concept. All the PLO leadership, offices, and combatants in Beirut will leave Lebanon peacefully for pre-arranged destinations in other countries, in accord with the departure schedules and arrangements set out in this plan. The basic concept in this plan is consistent with the objective of the Government of Lebanon that all foreign military forces withdraw from Lebanon.

2. Cease-fire. A cease-fire in place will be scrupulously observed by all in Lebanon.

3. U.N. Observers. The U.N. Observer Group stationed in the Beirut area will continue its functioning in that area.

4. Safeguards. Military forces present in Lebanon—whether Lebanese, Israeli, Syrian, Palestinian, or any other—will in no way interfere with the safe, secure, and timely departure of the PLO leadership, offices, and combatants. Law-abiding Palestinian noncombatants left behind in Beirut, including the families of those who have departed, will be subject to Lebanese laws and regulations. The Governments of Lebanon and the United States will provide appropriate guarantees of safety in the following ways.

- The Lebanese Government will provide its guarantees on the basis of having secured assurances from armed groups with which it has been in touch.

- The United States will provide its guarantees on the basis of assurances received from the Government of Israel and from the leadership of certain Lebanese groups with which it has been in touch.

5. "Departure Day" is defined as the day on which advance elements of the multinational force (MNF) deploy in the Beirut area, in accordance with arrangements worked out in advance among all concerned, and on which the initial group or groups of PLO personnel commence departure from Beirut in accord with the planned schedule (see page 9).

6. The Multinational Force. A temporary multinational force, composed of units from France, Italy, and the United States, will have been formed—at the request of the Lebanese Government—to

assist the Lebanese Armed Forces in carrying out their responsibilities in this operation. The Lebanese Armed Forces will assure the departure from Lebanon of the PLO leadership, offices, and combatants, from whatever organization in Beirut, in a manner which will:

(A) Assure the safety of such departing PLO personnel;

(B) Assure the safety of other persons in the Beirut area; and

(C) Further the restoration of the sovereignty and authority of the Government of Lebanon over the Beirut area.

7. Schedule of Departures and Other Arrangements. The attached schedule of departures is subject to revision as may be necessary because of logistical requirements and because of any necessary shift in the setting of Departure Day. Details concerning the schedule will be forwarded to the Israeli Defense Forces through the Liaison and Coordination Committee. Places of assembly for the departing personnel will be identified by agreement between the Government of Lebanon and the PLO. The PLO will be in touch with governments receiving personnel to coordinate arrival and other arrangements there. If assistance is required the PLO should notify the Government of Lebanon.

8. MNF Mandate. In the event that the departure from Lebanon of the PLO personnel referred to above does not take place in accord with the agreed and predetermined schedule, the mandate of the MNF will terminate immediately and all MNF personnel will leave Lebanon forthwith.

9. Duration of MNF. It will be mutually agreed between the Lebanese Government and the governments contributing forces to the MNF that the forces of the MNF will depart Lebanon not later than 30 days after arrival, or sooner at the request of the Government of Lebanon or at the direction of the individual government concerned, or in accord with the termination of the mandate of the MNF provided for above.

10. The PLO leadership will be responsible for the organization and management of the assembly and the final departure of PLO personnel, from beginning to end, at which time the leaders also will all be gone. Departure arrangements will be coordinated so that departures from Beirut take place at a steady pace, day by day.

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11. **Lebanese Armed Forces Contribution.** The Lebanese Army will contribute between seven and eight army battalions to the operation, consisting of between 2,500-3,500 men. In addition, the internal security force will contribute men and assistance as needed.

12. **ICRC.** The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) will be able to assist the Government of Lebanon and Lebanese Armed Forces in various ways, including in the organization and management of the evacuation of wounded and ill Palestinian and Syrian personnel to appropriate destinations, and in assisting in the chartering and movement of commercial vessels for use in departure by sea to other countries. The Liaison and Coordination Committee will insure that there will be proper coordination with any ICRC activities in this respect.

13. **Departure by Air.** While present plans call for departure by sea and land, departures by air are not foreclosed.

14. **Liaison and Coordination:**

- The Lebanese Armed Forces will be the primary point of contact for liaison with the PLO as well as with other armed groups and will provide necessary information.

- The Lebanese Armed Forces and MNF will have formed prior to Departure Day a Liaison and Coordination Committee, composed of representatives of the MNF participating governments and the Lebanese Armed Forces. The committee will carry out close and effective liaison with, and provide continuous and detailed information to, the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). On behalf of the committee, the Lebanese Armed Forces will continue to carry out close and effective liaison with the PLO and other armed groups in the Beirut area. For convenience, the Liaison and Coordination Committee will have two essential components:

(A) Supervisory liaison; and

(B) Military and technical liaison and coordination.

The Liaison and Coordination Committee will act collectively; however, it may designate one or more of its members for primary liaison contact who would of course act on behalf of all.

- Liaison arrangements and consultations will be conducted in such a way as to minimize misunderstandings and to forestall difficulties. Appropriate means of communications between the committee and other groups will be developed for this purpose.

- The Liaison and Coordination Committee will continually monitor and keep all concerned currently informed regarding the implementation of the plan, including any revisions to the departure schedule as may be necessary because of logistical requirements.

15. **Duration of Departure.** The departure period shall be as short as possible and, in any event, no longer than 2 weeks.

16. **Transit Through Lebanon.** As part of any departure arrangement, all movements of convoys carrying PLO personnel must be conducted in daylight hours. When moving overland from Beirut to Syria, the convoys should cross the border into Syria with no stops en route. In those instances when convoys of departing PLO personnel pass through positions of the Israeli Defense Forces, whether in the Beirut area or elsewhere in Lebanon, the Israeli Defense Forces will clear the route for the temporary period in which the convoy is running. Similar steps will be taken by other armed groups located in the area of the route the convoy will take.

17. **Arms Carried by PLO Personnel.** On their departure, PLO personnel will be allowed to carry with them one individual side weapon (pistol, rifle, or submarine gun) and ammunition.

18. **Heavy and Spare Weaponry and Munitions.** The PLO will turn over to the Lebanese Armed Forces as gifts all remaining weaponry in their possession, including heavy, crew-served, and spare weaponry and equipment, along with all munitions left behind in the Beirut area. The Lebanese Armed Forces may seek the assistance of elements of the MNF in securing and disposing of the military equipment. The PLO will assist the Lebanese Armed Forces by providing, prior to their departure, full and detailed information as to the location of this military equipment.

19. **Mines and Booby Traps.** The PLO and the Arab Deterrent Force (ADF) will provide to the Lebanese Armed Forces and the MNF (through the Lebanese Armed Forces) full and detailed information on the location of mines and booby traps.

20. **Movement of PLO Leadership.** Arrangements will be made so that departing PLO personnel will be accompanied by a proportionate share of the military and political leadership throughout all stages of the departure operation.

21. **Turnover of Prisoners and Remains.** The PLO will, through the ICRC, turn over to the Israeli Defense Forces, all Israeli nationals whom they have taken in custody, and the remains, or full and detailed information about the location of the remains, of all Israeli soldiers who have fallen. The PLO will also turn over to the Lebanese Armed Forces all other prisoners whom they have taken in custody and the remains, or full and detailed information about the location of the remains, of all other soldiers who have fallen. All arrangements for such turnovers shall be worked out with the ICRC as required prior to Departure Day.

22. **Syrian Military Forces.** It is noted that arrangements have been made between the Governments of Lebanon and Syria for the deployment of all military personnel of the Arab Deterrent Force from Beirut during the departure period. These forces will be allowed to take their equipment with them, except for that—under mutual agreement between the two governments—which is turned over to the Lebanese Armed Forces. All elements of the Palestinian Liberation Army, whether or not they now or in the past have been attached to the Arab Deterrent Force, will withdraw from Lebanon.

SCHEDULE OF DEPARTURES

August 21, 1982—Departure Day

The advance elements of the MNF (approximately 350 men) land at the Port of Beirut at about 0500 and deploy in the Beirut port area in preparation for the initial departures of PLO groups by sea.

Meanwhile, the Lebanese Armed Forces deploy to previously agreed positions in the Beirut area, primarily in the so-called demarcation line area, to assist in the departure of PLO personnel. The Lebanese Armed Forces will take over positions occupied by the PLO.

The PLO will insure that National Movement Forces [collection of Lebanese militias] which had occupied these positions jointly with the PLO shall also withdraw.

As the day proceeds, the Lebanese Armed Forces will take up such other positions as necessary to assist in the departure of PLO personnel.

Meanwhile, the initial group of PLO personnel assemble in preparation for departure by sea later in the day (or on August 22). The vessel or vessels to be used for this purpose will arrive at pier on August 21.

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EXCHANGE OF NOTES

The initial groups could include the wounded and ill, who would be transported in accordance with agreed arrangements—by sea or land, or both—to their destinations in other countries.

The initial group or groups of PLO personnel destined for Jordan and Iraq would move from their assembly point to the waiting commercial vessel or vessels for onward transport by sea.

August 22

All groups destined for Jordan or Iraq will have boarded ship and will have sailed from Beirut.

Duplicating the model followed on August 21, PLO groups destined for Tunisia assemble and move to the Port of Beirut for departure by sea.

August 23

All PLO personnel destined for Tunisia complete their assembly and embark on commercial vessel for Tunisia.

PLO personnel destined for South Yemen assemble and move to a vessel for departure then or on August 24.

August 24-25

Assembly and departure by sea of PLO personnel destined for North Yemen.

August 25

Provided that satisfactory logistical arrangements have been completed, the initial groups of PLO personnel destined for Syria assemble and move overland via the Beirut-Damascus highway to Syria.

The advance French elements of the MNF already in the port area will have taken up such other agreed positions on the land route in the Beirut area as necessary to assist in the overland departure of the PLO personnel for Syria.

The Lebanese Armed Forces join with the French in occupying such positions.

(If it should be agreed that these initial groups should go by sea to Syria rather than by land, this departure schedule also is subject to amendment to assure that logistical requirements are met.)

August 26-28 (Approximately)

The remaining forces of the MNF (from the United States, France, and Italy) arrive in the Beirut area and deploy to agreed locations as determined through the Liaison and Coordinating Committee. This movement may be accompanied by the transfer of the ad-

vance French elements previously in the port area and elsewhere to other locations in the Beirut area.

August 26-27-28

PLO groups destined for Syria continue to move—by land or sea—to Syria.

August 22-September 4

Turnover to the Lebanese Armed Forces of PLO weaponry, military equipment, and ammunition in a continuing and orderly fashion.

August 29-30-31

Redeployment out of Beirut of the Syrian elements of the ADF.

September 1-4

Completion of the departure to Syria—by land or sea—of all PLO or Palestine Liberation Army personnel destined for Syria.

September 2-3

Assembly and departure by sea of all PLO personnel destined for the Sudan.

Assembly and movement by sea of all PLO personnel destined for Algeria.

September 4-21

The MNF assists the Lebanese Armed Forces in arrangements, as may be agreed between governments concerned, to insure good and lasting security throughout the area of operation.

September 21-26

Departure of MNF.

Lebanese Note Requesting U.S. Contribution to MNF

Beirut
August 18th, 1982

Ambassador Robert S. Dillon
U.S. Embassy, Beirut

Your Excellency,

I have the honor to refer to the many conversations between their Excellencies the President of the Republic of Lebanon, the Prime Minister and myself on the one hand, and with Ambassador Philip C. Habib, Special Emissary to the President of the United States of America, on the other hand, as well as to the resolution of the Council of Ministers passed today. I have the honor to refer to the schedule set up by the Government of Lebanon, after consultations with interested parties, in order to assure the withdrawal from Lebanese territory of the Palestinian leaders, offices and combatants related to any organization now in the Beirut area, in a manner which will:

(1) assure the safety of such departing persons;
(2) assure the safety of the persons in the area; and

(3) further the restoration of the sovereignty and authority of the Government of Lebanon over the Beirut area.

In this context, the Government of Lebanon is proposing to several nations that they contribute forces to serve as a temporary Multinational Force (MNF) in Beirut. The mandate of the MNF will be to provide appropriate assistance to the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) as they carry out the foregoing responsibilities, in accordance with the annexed schedule. The MNF may undertake other functions only by mutual agreement. It is understood that, in the event that the withdrawal of the Palestinian personnel referred to above does not take place in accord with the predetermined schedule, the mandate of the MNF will terminate immediately and all MNF personnel will leave Lebanon forthwith.

In the foregoing context, I have the honor to propose that the United States of America deploy a force of approximately 800 personnel to Beirut, subject to the following terms and conditions:

- The American military force shall carry out appropriate activities consistent with the mandate of the MNF.

- Command authority over the American force will be exercised exclusively by the United States Government through existing American military channels.

- The American force will operate in close coordination with the LAF. To assure effective coordination with the LAF, the American force will assign liaison officers to the LAF and the Government of Lebanon will assign liaison officers to the American force. The LAF liaison officers to the American force will, *inter alia*, perform liaison with the civilian population and

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manifest the authority of the Lebanese Government in all appropriate situations.

- In carrying out its mission, the American force will not engage in combat. It may, however, exercise the right of self-defense.

- The American force will depart Lebanon not later than thirty days after its arrival, or sooner at the request of the President of Lebanon or at the direction of the United States Government, or according to the termination of the mandate provided for above.

- The Government of Lebanon and the LAF will take all measures necessary to ensure the protection of the American force's personnel, to include securing the assurances from all armed elements not now under the authority of the Lebanese Government that they will comply with the cease-fire and cessation of hostilities.

- The American force will enjoy both the degree of freedom of movement and the right to undertake those activities deemed necessary for the performance of its mission or for the support of its personnel. Accordingly, it shall enjoy all facilities necessary for the accomplishment of these purposes. Personnel in the American force shall enjoy the privileges and immunities accorded the administrative and technical staff of the American Embassy in Beirut, and shall be exempt from immigration and customs requirements, and restrictions on entering or departing Lebanon. Personnel, property and equipment of the American force introduced into Lebanon shall be exempt from any form of tax, duty, charge or levy.

I have the further honor to propose, if the foregoing is acceptable to your Excellency's government, that your Excellency's reply to that effect, together with this note, shall constitute an agreement between our two governments, to enter into force on the date of your Excellency's reply.

Please accept, your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

ELIAD BOUTROS

Deputy Prime Minister/
Minister of Foreign Affairs

U.S. Reply to Lebanese Note Requesting U.S. Contribution to MNF

August 20, 1982

I have the honor to refer to your Excellency's note of 18 August 1982 requesting the deployment of an American force to Beirut. I am pleased to inform you on behalf of my government that the United States is prepared to deploy temporarily a force of approximately 800 personnel as part of a Multinational Force (MNF) to provide appropriate assistance to the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) as they carry out their responsibilities concerning the withdrawal of Palestinian personnel in Beirut from Lebanese territory under safe and orderly conditions, in accordance with the schedule annexed to your Excellency's note. It is understood that the presence of such an

American force will in this way facilitate the restoration of Lebanese Government sovereignty and authority over the Beirut area, an objective which is fully shared by my government.

I have the further honor to inform you that my government accepts the terms and conditions concerning the presence of the American force in the Beirut area as set forth in your note, and that your Excellency's note and this reply accordingly constitute an agreement between our two governments.

ROBERT S. DILLON

Ambassador of the
United States of America

PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO THE U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL, AUG. 20, 1982¹

Letter dated August 20, 1982, from the Charge d'Affaires a.i. of the U.S. Permanent Mission to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary General

I have the honour to transmit the following message from the President of the United States:

"Dear Mr. Secretary-General:

"As you know, the Government of the Republic of Lebanon has requested the deployment of a multinational force in Beirut to assist the Lebanese armed forces as they carry out the orderly and safe departure of Palestinian personnel now in the Beirut area in a manner which will further the restoration of the sovereignty and authority of the Government of Lebanon over the Beirut area. The Lebanese Government has asked for the participation of United States military personnel in this force, together with military personnel from France and Italy.

"I wish to inform you that the United States Government has agreed, in response to this request from the Lebanese Government, to deploy a force of about 800 personnel to Beirut for a period not exceeding 30 days. It is my firm intention and belief that these troops will not be involved in hostilities during the course of this operation.

"The deployment of this United States force is consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations as set forth in Articles 1 and 2 of the Charter. It furthers the goals of Security Council resolutions 508 (1982) and 509 (1982) adopted in June at the beginning of the Lebanese conflict. The force will plan to work closely with the United Nations observer group stationed in the Beirut area.

"This agreement will support the objective of helping to restore the territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence of Lebanon. It is part of the continuing efforts of the United States Govern-

¹Circulated as a document of the U.N. General Assembly and Security Council (A/37/393-S/15371, Aug. 21, 1982).

ment to bring lasting peace to that troubled country, which has too long endured the trials of civil strife and armed conflict.

RONALD REAGAN*

I have the honour to request that the present letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 34 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

KENNETH L. ADELMAN
Ambassador

PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO THE CONGRESS, AUG. 24, 1982²

On August 18, 1982, the Government of Lebanon established a plan for the departure from Lebanon of the Palestine Liberation Organization leadership, offices, and combatants in Beirut. This plan has been accepted by the Government of Israel. The Palestine Liberation Organization has informed the Government of Lebanon that it also has accepted the plan. A key element of this plan is the need for a multinational force, including a United States component, to assist the Government of Lebanon in carrying out its responsibilities concerning the withdrawal of these personnel under safe and orderly conditions. This will facilitate the restoration of Lebanese Government sovereignty and authority over the Beirut area.

In response to the formal request of the Government of Lebanon, and in view of the requirement for such a force in order to secure the acceptance by concerned parties of the departure plan, I have authorized the Armed Forces of the United States to participate on a limited and temporary basis. In accordance with my desire that the Congress be fully informed on this matter, and consistent with the War Powers Resolution, I am hereby providing a report on the deployment and mission of these members of the United States Armed Forces.

On August 21, in accordance with the departure plan, approximately 350 French military personnel—the advance elements of the multinational force—were deployed in Beirut together with elements of the Lebanese Armed Forces, and the departure of Palestinian personnel began. To date, Palestinian personnel have departed Lebanon in accordance with the terms of the plan.

On August 25, approximately 800 Marines began to arrive in Beirut. These troops are equipped with weapons consistent with their non-combat mission, including usual infantry weapons.

Under our agreement with the Government of Lebanon, these U.S. military personnel will assist the Government of Lebanon in carrying out its responsibilities concerning

²Identical letters addressed to Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Strom Thurmond, President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

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the withdrawal of Palestinian personnel under safe and orderly conditions. The presence of our forces will in this way facilitate the restoration of Lebanese Government sovereignty and authority in the Beirut area. Our forces will operate in close coordination with the Lebanese Armed Forces, which will have 2,500-3,500 personnel assigned to this operation, as well as with a total of approximately 800 French and 400 Italian military personnel in the multinational force. Transportation of the personnel departing is being carried out by commercial air and sea transport, and by land. According to our agreement with the Government of Lebanon, the United States military personnel will be withdrawn from Lebanon within thirty days.

I want to emphasize that there is no intention or expectation that U.S. Armed Forces will become involved in hostilities. They are in Lebanon at the formal request of the Government of Lebanon. Our agreement with the Government of Lebanon expressly rules out any combat responsibilities for the U.S. forces. All armed elements in the area have given assurances that they will take no action to interfere with the implementation of

the departure plan or the activities of the multinational force. (The departure has been underway for some days now, and thus far these assurances have been fulfilled.) Finally, the departure plan makes it clear that in the event of a breakdown in its implementation, the multinational force will be withdrawn. Although we cannot rule out isolated acts of violence, all appropriate precautions have thus been taken to assure the safety of U.S. military personnel during their brief assignment to Lebanon.

This deployment of the United States Armed Forces to Lebanon is being undertaken pursuant to the President's constitutional authority with respect to the conduct of foreign relations and as Commander-in-Chief of the United States Armed Forces.

This step will not, by itself, resolve the situation in Lebanon, let alone the problems which have plagued the region for more than thirty years. But I believe that it will improve the prospects for realizing our objectives in Lebanon:

- a permanent cessation of hostilities;
- establishment of a strong, representative central government;

- withdrawal of all foreign forces;
- restoration of control by the Lebanese Government throughout the country; and
- establishment of conditions under which Lebanon no longer can be used as a launching point for attacks against Israel.

I also believe that progress on the Lebanon problem will contribute to an atmosphere in the region necessary for progress towards the establishment of a comprehensive peace in the region under Camp David, based firmly on U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

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THE SECRETARY OF STATE

WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

From: George P. Shultz

Subject: Habib Mission: Your Meeting with the
Saudi and Syrian Foreign Ministers,
July 20

The temporary breakdown in negotiations which Phil Habib experienced last week due to Israel's ceasefire violations and checkpoint closures was rectified over the weekend and Phil has been meeting this week with the Lebanese and Israelis. It has become clear, however, that the process has gone as far as Phil can take it in the absence of some state or states willing to receive the PLO combatants, if only temporarily.

We are continuing to work on this problem, but we are not optimistic about finding a solution. Assad has said Syria will not take the combatants, and our approach to Algeria received a negative reaction, at least in the first instance. The Saudis say they are continuing to work on the Syrians and are also looking at a possible dispersal of PLO combatants to states who have issued them identity cards. There is, however, no easy solution yet in view.

Israel, meanwhile, now seems to recognize the quandry it is in. Begin has at last absorbed the implications of your message of last week. He understands that if he authorizes an assault on West Beirut he risks a serious rupture in the U.S.-Israeli relationship which, in turn, would cause him serious domestic problems. On the other hand, if he foregoes the military option and Habib's negotiations drag on without success, Begin will pay a heavy domestic price for having involved Israel in a major operation which has produced significant civilian casualties without accomplishing its ultimate objective.

The fact is that the negotiations are currently in the doldrums with no breakthrough in sight. While the Israelis apparently feel they have no choice but to give us more time to try to find a place for the PLO to go, Begin's sense of frustration with the situation could

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result in an attack order before very long. Iran's new military offensive into Iraq will be seen by some Israeli leaders as providing a convenient distraction for renewed Israeli military action.

At the very least, we can anticipate a break-down in the cease-fire at almost any time as the Israelis revert to their tactic of applying "pressure" on the PLO negotiators. We may be hard pressed to keep the next cease-fire breakdown from getting out of hand.

The foregoing describes the context in which you will be meeting on July 20 with Foreign Minister Prince Saud of Saudi Arabia and Foreign Minister Khaddam of Syria, who will be visiting you on behalf of the Arab League. All parties involved in the Lebanon problem are aware of, and attach great importance to, this meeting. Indeed, some appear to be withholding what otherwise might be their next moves in the realization that for the next several days the negotiations will have shifted to Washington. The following is the conceptual framework within which we are now viewing the West Beirut negotiations and within which you might look ahead to your Tuesday meeting.

OUR OBJECTIVES

The situation in Lebanon has evolved to a point where the U.S. has acquired important interests in the manner in which the immediate Beirut crisis is resolved. There is no guarantee that we will be able to accomplish all of our objectives, primarily because we lack total control over the evolution of events. Nevertheless, our interests require a solution which satisfies as many of the following objectives as possible:

-- We must try to avoid the extensive bloodshed which would result from an IDF assault on West Beirut.

-- Accordingly, with a view toward Israeli impatience, the West Beirut crisis should be resolved sooner rather than later.

-- The PLO should not realize the tremendous enhancement in its status, both political and military, which would derive from its remaining intact in Beirut.

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-- We should try to acquire and retain leverage over Israeli actions in order to assure their eventual withdrawal from all of Lebanon.

-- We must attempt to further the peace process if the opportunity arises, but in any case to avoid setting it back any further than the crisis itself already has.

-- We want to emerge with our relations with key Arab states intact, particularly their perception that only we can make constructive things happen in the region.

-- We hope to the extent possible to receive the credit for a successful resolution of the crisis and avoid blame for failure, particularly if failure takes the form of an Israeli assault on West Beirut.

Possible Scenarios

At present we must continue with our current approach since we have not yet exhausted the possibilities of finding a destination for the PLO fighters leaving Beirut. Thereafter, if there is no breakthrough in the negotiations, we will have to anticipate the need to rethink our own approach or perhaps to confront an all-out Israeli attack on West Beirut. Our goal under any scenario will of course be to realize as many of our objectives as possible. The following are some possible scenarios:

-- Continue on Course. We could continue essentially along the course we have been on. This would make maximum use of the implicit pressure of potential Israeli military action to convince the PLO to negotiate seriously and quickly and, if necessary, find a state willing to receive them. On the down side, under this approach we have to accept the possibility that an Israeli attack might take place, although we would continue to make the Israelis aware of the impact of this on our bilateral relationship.

-- Open-ended Negotiations. We could try to give Phil Habib as much time as necessary to put together a package deal, revolving around the safe departure of the PLO from Lebanon, by doing everything in our power to forestall all Israeli military operations against West Beirut whatever the circumstances. This would minimize,

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but not eliminate, the risk that many additional innocent people would be killed. On the other hand, with the pressure off the PLO, it might be impossible to close a deal and our efforts to forestall an Israeli attack would severely complicate our relationship, with no guarantee of success.

-- Fixed Deadline. We could establish a date certain (perhaps several weeks hence) by which the negotiations must be completed and the PLO on the move, and prior to which we would insist that the Israelis forego any military action. If the PLO deals seriously, we can bring about their withdrawal without further Israeli military action, thus maximizing the benefits to us. If not, however, and if the Israelis then attack, it will appear as if we had provided a "green light" and we would pay a heavy price in our Arab relations.

-- Temporary Relief. We could arrange for the transfer of the PLO leadership and combatants to the north of Lebanon (in the Tripoli area and the Bekaa Valley) as a temporary measure. This would probably remove the risk of an Israeli assault on West Beirut but, by relieving the pressure, could further complicate our search for a receiving state to facilitate the departure of the PLO from Lebanon completely. Such a "fallback" solution also would increase the chances of a "North Korea/South Korea" type situation for Lebanon, with the north dominated by Syria and the PLO and the south under Israeli hegemony.

-- An Israeli Assault. Whatever we say or do, the Israelis can decide at any time to launch an attack on West Beirut rather than risk letting the PLO off the hook. Both from the humanitarian point of view and in terms of our Arab relations, this is the worst outcome. Nevertheless, there would be the kind of adverse public reaction in this country, as well as worldwide, that would enable us to maximize our leverage over the Israelis, thereby facilitating our effort to get them to withdraw from Lebanon and make concessions in the peace process.

Your Tuesday Meeting with the Saudi and Syrian Foreign Ministers.

Unless we get a breakthrough sometime in the next few days on the problem of acquiring a recipient state for the

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PLO, there appears to be no alternative to using your and my meetings with the two Arab Foreign Ministers on Tuesday to try to move this situation forward within our current game plan. I suggest that to make the best use of this opportunity, we inform the foreign ministers in advance that we will be looking to them on Tuesday for concrete ideas on resolving the West Beirut crisis, specifically as regards resolving the "recipient country" problem. Otherwise they almost certainly will present us with nothing more than requests for U.S. concessions on recognizing the PLO.

I will be sending you more specific recommendations concerning how best to handle this meeting. We will need a comprehensive way of dealing with the various issues of interest both to us and to the two Ministers. Our immediate objective will be to move the ministers and their leaders toward a breakthrough on the problem of a place for the PLO to go. Whether we can bring this about, and how we try to do it, will make a difference as to how Phil Habib proceeds on the West Beirut issue. It could as well have an effect on our long-term policy approaches to larger questions such as the future of Lebanon, the peace process, our relations with the Gulf Arab states in the context of the Iranian offensive, and capitalizing on Syria's possible disenchantment--with the Soviets. We are also considering very carefully how you might best address the PLO factor when it arises. This is not to put too much significance on these meetings with the two foreign ministers, but the reality is that there are several sensitive factors at play and we need to address them with an awareness that they are interrelated.

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GORBACHEV'S SUMMIT AGENDA: LOOKING AHEAD

If the Moscow ministerial demonstrated one thing, it is that Gorbachev is in control of foreign policy and prepared to bargain. Despite signs of bureaucratic disarray around him, Gorbachev still has a clear vision of what he must accomplish. He views this summit both as a mark of how far US-Soviet relations have come--the START framework, trade agreement, chemical weapons agreement, nuclear testing protocols, and ever expanding bilateral agreements--and as an opportunity to chart the future course of bilateral relations during a period of dramatic international change. Moreover, it enables him to set the stage for the 28th Party Congress in July and claim a foreign policy success. He will continue to demonstrate political savvy, particularly the ability to anticipate problems down the road as well as confront those at hand.

Domestic Context. Gorbachev sees the summit as a means of easing domestic pressures; he hopes to use it as leverage to shift resources from defense spending to such critical areas as agriculture, housing, and medical care. By all appearances, he has decided to cut the military budget even more than the 14.2 percent already announced, and needs both the substance and the atmospherics of a successful summit in political support of such cuts, especially in the face of likely strong opposition from the large and influential military-industrial complex within the Council of Ministers.

Although there are signs of military unease and concern, Gorbachev is less constrained by military opposition to his foreign and arms control policies than he is by the USSR's need to reassess its security interests in light of the disintegration of the Warsaw Pact, German unification, and prospects for Baltic independence. The uncertainty surrounding the implication of these events has raised Soviet anxieties and produced disarray in the decision-making process. Nonetheless, Gorbachev remains in charge and Soviet policies are beginning to crystallize--and change--as Moscow adapts to the new alignments.

A successful summit also will reinforce Gorbachev's stature at home as he prepares the country for a new stage of economic reform, to be debated at the July Party Congress. In this context, he hopes to show that any "losses" resulting from his foreign policy in Eastern Europe will be offset by the gains in strategic arms control and increased western economic cooperation.

Gorbachev probably expects Lithuania and the other Baltic republics to be high on the American agenda, and will be prepared to address criticisms head on with the President as well as in meetings with members of Congress and the public. He appears confident in his approach and will argue he

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cannot go further until Lithuania suspends its independence declaration.

Anxiety Over German Unification. More than at Malta, the German question will occupy Gorbachev's mind. His attitude to a unified Germany in NATO continues to be resoundingly negative, and there is no sign of willingness or ability to back down. Instead, he is likely to continue to seek alternatives or, at a minimum, to delay a decision. The urgency of the German question appears to be such that Moscow is prepared to put other policies at risk. The Soviets now appear prepared to make a CFE agreement dependent on the outcome of the two-plus-four talks, thereby imperiling a set of important objectives such as a 1990 CSCE summit and negotiations on short-range nuclear missiles. They also seem prepared to obstruct unification over the NATO membership issue, e.g. refusing to relinquish four-power rights, insisting on a peace treaty, or maintaining Soviet troops in the GDR, moves which would complicate Soviet efforts to improve relations with West Germany as well as other NATO member countries.

While Gorbachev recognizes that the US and USSR cannot resolve the political-military status of Germany at the summit, he will be looking for understanding on the depth of Soviet concerns and support for alternate approaches, including an expanded role for CSCE.

But while Gorbachev will be open to using CSCE to guarantee pan-European security and diminish the need for military alliances or Germany's membership in NATO, he is likely to insist on establishing parameters for Germany itself. Gorbachev will insist that any alternative must place limits on the size of the Bundeswehr, ban nuclear weapons on German soil, commit the new Germany to fulfill the GDR's agreements with the USSR, and allow for the deployment of Soviet forces on German territory during a transition period. It is clear the Soviets are looking to the two-plus-four talks to produce a legally binding document that will ensure these objectives.

Arms Control: The Centerpiece of Relations. While the initialing of a framework START agreement is a major goal, Gorbachev will be satisfied even if the chemical weapons agreement and the nuclear testing protocols are the only arms control texts signed at the summit. Whether a START framework is initialed or not, Gorbachev will press for a US commitment to follow-on strategic negotiations despite the possibility that he will stall on conventional reductions. He probably wants to be able to point to a productive dialogue on short-range nuclear missiles, and may even hope to get the US

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to broaden talks on confidence-building measures at sea in order to show movement toward naval arms control, but neither of these issues will be central to his summit arms control agenda.

START. Willingness, in the end, to close a deal on ALCMs and SLCMs in Moscow demonstrates that the Soviets consider completing a "framework" START agreement one of the keys to a successful summit, and they will try to reach agreement on those issues that the US maintains are necessarily part of a framework. Nevertheless, the Soviets can be expected to resist strongly any proposal that appears to be a unilateral concession, such as further limits on heavy missiles, or limits on MIRVed mobiles.

Mobile Missiles--Soviets Want to Keep it Simple. On mobile missiles, the Soviets would probably require a ceiling of around 550 launchers and 950-1,050 weapons to meet their needs. To gain US acquiescence in this, they would probably accept a verification regime involving notifications of movements, although they are likely to insist that these be held to a minimum. The Soviets will also be wary of types of movement restrictions that they fear might lead to inadvertent treaty violations, particularly since, until the US deploys mobile missiles, these restrictions will apply only to them.

Backfire. They also are unlikely to accept new limits that would compel them to alter their deployment plans. The Intelligence Community, for example, projects that, by 1999, the Soviets will have deployed some 500 Backfire bombers. Of these, approximately 210 will belong to naval forces. Although it may be possible to persuade the Soviets to accept a global limit on Backfires, if that were the price of a framework agreement, the limit would have to be comfortably above 500.

Throwweight--Progress Unlikely. The Soviets will probably wish to leave the question of throwweight vague in a framework agreement. The gap between the US desire to account for "potential" throwweight and the Soviet position of counting only "demonstrated" throwweight is wide. Moreover, the Soviets perceive that throwweight restrictions, and any possible attendant ambiguities and unforeseen consequences, are likely to apply only to them.

Linkage--A Last-Minute Stick in the Spokes? Despite the evident Soviet desire to announce a framework agreement at the summit, we cannot exclude the possibility the Soviets will attempt to revive their efforts to link a START agreement to the ABM Treaty. While claiming that linkage has been dissolved, the Soviets continue to remind us of the importance of agreeing on activities permitted and prohibited under the

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ABM Treaty, and on conditions for leaving the START Treaty because of ABM compliance problems. If they are unsatisfied on this issue at START, they can be expected to pursue it during any follow-on negotiations.

Looking to the Future. The Soviets have given ample proof of their interest in follow-on negotiations to START that would lead to further reductions in strategic arms. They are far more likely to propose a START-like additional 50 percent reduction than to favor extreme cuts to the level of several hundred warheads.

The Soviets have indicated on various occasions that they would consider further reductions in heavy missiles as part of follow-on negotiations. They have also signaled an interest in de-MIRVing. We believe, however, that the Soviets are interested in these issues mainly as levers to bring about further restrictions in US forces. Until the Soviets fundamentally change their strategic nuclear doctrine--and we see no evidence that this has occurred--they will be dependent on MIRVs. The attraction of de-MIRVing proposals for the Soviets is limited to the possibility of putting restrictions on US forces--notably the Trident SSBN force. Similarly, further cuts in heavy missiles will be tolerable for the Soviets as newer, lighter, and more accurate missiles replace the SS-18. Offering up further cuts in--or even a ban on--heavy missiles could be seen by the Soviets as sacrificing something of waning value in order to extract a high price from Washington--such as limitations on the US Trident force.

Last, the Soviets may suggest that other types of arms be included in follow-on negotiations. Anti-satellite weapons, which they have said they wish to ban, are one possibility. They also might argue that, if deeper cuts than those of START are contemplated, it will be necessary to begin reducing French and British nuclear forces at the same time.

CEE. With the wrap up of START, attention should shift to CFE, but Moscow's overriding concern about the security implications of a united Germany is apparently forcing the Soviets to rethink the issue, which has resulted in considerable Soviet foot-dragging in Vienna.

The Soviets are anxious to limit the Bundeswehr, and can be expected to press this issue either in CFE or two-plus-four. Gorbachev is likely to repeat the Soviet CFE proposal that each alliance be limited to 750,000 troops in the central zone. To support this, Gorbachev could argue that since the scheme is not specifically directed at Germany, it should not run afoul of Bonn's sensitivities regarding "singularity." He also may

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point out that because the proposed central zone limits are alliance wide, NATO will have to reach intra-alliance agreement on troop levels, thereby enhancing NATO's political role--an important US objective.

Bilateral Issues: Enlarging the Agenda. Though largely symbolic, Gorbachev views completion of the trade agreement, and the other bilateral agreements, as well as progress on various transnational issues such as ecology and counter-terrorism, as key to improving the long term prospects for stable US-Soviet relations and, most importantly, securing economic benefits. He can be expected to play up these agreements--especially those expanding people-to-people contacts--in his public comments as indicators of growing cooperation and trust between the two countries and as examples of where future relations should go.

Economic Issues. Gorbachev will press the President for greater US economic assistance, which is probably one of his highest priorities. He will likely call into question the sincerity as well as the depth of US support for perestroika, as he did at the Moscow ministerial, and urge direct US government credit as well as greater efforts by the Administration to encourage and support joint ventures and private investment by US business. He will also ask for political support for a number of government-to-government and private business projects, such as the American trade consortium, the Medical consortium and an agreement on technical assistance for the Soviet food industry.

A Possible Surprise: Request for Food Aid. Should the continued downward economic slide threaten social disturbances, Gorbachev could request emergency food assistance, including direct airborne emergency food shipments and short-term credits. In early February, the Soviets requested emergency food assistance from the FRG in an effort to forestall riots in remote parts of the USSR.

Human Rights. Passage of the Soviet emigration bill promised for May 31 is still uncertain. Apparently the Supreme Soviet still has not decided on how to respond to demands--from departing emigres and other travellers--for an increase in the amount of foreign exchange which can be taken out of the USSR. Gorbachev will be expecting criticism over direct flights to Israel and will likely restate Shevardnadze's earlier call for the US to increase its refugee and immigration quotas for Soviet Jews, seeing this as a way to answer both US arguments and Arab criticism.

Regional Issues. Gorbachev probably sees little danger that regional issues will threaten summit atmospheres or, for

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that matter, overall relations. Given the press of other business--and barring any major changes on the ground--he is not likely to give these issues priority. Moreover, he probably views the various regional issues as either on track, not susceptible to US-Soviet action at this time, or, in the case of Afghanistan, as tending to favor Moscow.

Afghanistan. The ministerial and working group discussions identified the one issue blocking US-Soviet agreement on an Afghan settlement: "incumbency"--whether power is to be transferred from Najib to a new organ of power before elections. Soviet intransigence on this issue and Shevardnadze's reference to Nicaragua, where the US did not require Ortega to step down before elections, gives little basis for expecting the Soviets to change their position. Nor does Soviet handling of recent developments in the region: they have continued to supply Najib and publicize his political reforms; they have also been playing up rivalries within the AIG, the AIG's extremist elements, and alleged involvement in narcotics and excursions across the USSR border. At least in the short term, the Soviets seem to feel time is on their side.

Nonetheless, the Soviets are still interested in a settlement. A recent article in an influential Soviet foreign policy journal stressed the need to abandon burdensome, unsavory Third World regimes, and in a specific reference to Afghanistan, stated that reconciliation efforts require a "transitional, neutral status" which cannot be obtained by "maintaining in power one of the belligerents." While it is unclear whether this statement represents more than a minority view, Moscow warmly welcomed former king Zahir Shah's offer to participate in a settlement. At the summit, the Soviets are sure to return to "negative symmetry" and again call for an international conference on Afghanistan and a larger UN role. They may also argue that the situation in Kashmir makes a settlement all the more important.

Kashmir. The Soviets are likely to emphasize common US-USSR interests in seeing the Kashmir situation defused. They can claim with some justification that they have counseled restraint and dialogue on India and Pakistan. Criticism of Pakistan is nothing new; in an unusual recent flurry of articles, however, the Soviet press has criticized India for inept administration of Kashmir, for an excessive military budget, and for failure to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. The Soviets have told the Indians they will continue to fill orders for military equipment, but the Indians complain about delays and unsatisfactory performance and seem uneasy about the depth of the Soviet commitment.

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... distinguished this, however, from international involvement in the Kashmir settlement issue, which the Soviets prefer to leave to the Indians and Pakistanis bilaterally, under the Simla agreement. Gorbachev is likely to support any means of bringing pressure on the two sides which does not challenge Indian sovereignty in Kashmir or injure Soviet-Indian relations.

Central America. The Nicaraguan elections took some of the pressure off US-Soviet relations, and Central America currently has little claim on Gorbachev's time. Moscow is, nevertheless, interested in continuing the dialogue as a low-cost way of staking out a claim to a role in the region, and in Latin America in general. Moreover, Moscow wants an improvement in US-Cuban relations to relieve the pressure on Havana--and the financial burden for itself of keeping the Castro regime afloat. The Soviets are likely to resist any efforts by the US to get the USSR to pressure Castro, arguing that Washington should address its concerns to Havana, not Moscow, and that the best way to ensure Castro's good behavior is to alleviate his sense of isolation.

While they are not pushing the issue as actively as before, the Soviets may raise the need for a region-wide approach to area problems and, as part of this, movement on a settlement in El Salvador. They would like to see Cuban participation in settling the El Salvador conflict and in solidifying a region-wide peace accord as a way of diffusing US-Cuban tensions and relieving remaining Central American anxieties, but they still insist the US deal with the Cubans directly on a regional arms embargo. However, as in the Middle East, they may argue for multilateral talks on cutting arms transfers.

Middle East. The Soviets see the Arab-Israeli peace process stalemated and are reluctant to discuss the Gulf. Nonetheless, Soviet media sharply criticized the killings in the Occupied Territories, and Moscow is concerned Shamir will lead Israel's next government. At a minimum, the Soviets are likely to criticize Israel for obstructing the peace process and the Administration for failing to move Israel, while pushing the US to take a second look at Soviet ideas--namely bringing the UN Perm Five into the game--to get Israel to be more flexible. As at the ministerial, the Soviets will deflect any calls for improved USSR-Israel ties, including direct flights, claiming Israeli actions, such as new settlements, and violence, make it politically impossible for Moscow to do anything now. Gorbachev will probably ask us to open the doors to increased Soviet Jewish immigration.

Gorbachev is likely to seek a joint statement condemning recent Israeli actions and calling on Israel to move the peace process forward. The USSR will also be watching the upcoming Arab summit; if criticism in that forum of Soviet Jewish emigration policy is particularly harsh, Moscow may push for a condemnation of Israeli settlement policy in the Occupied Territories.

Questions of regional proliferation, the Gulf situation, and Lebanon are likely to get short shrift. The Soviets may welcome a statement supporting the Taif accords in Lebanon, but probably see little reason to focus on the issue now. They are likely to justify their recently renewed offer to mediate talks between Iran and Iraq as in keeping with UN efforts, but will try to avoid detailed discussions on their bilateral relations with Tehran.

Cambodia. Barring real progress at the Perm Five meeting in New York on May 25-26, the Soviets at the summit will again press for a total arms moratorium, and endorse the current Thai cease-fire proposal. The Soviets may cite recent hints of flexibility from the Chinese and stress the importance of the US and USSR working with Beijing at the Perm Five. They are, however, hesitant about becoming deeply involved in a peace process that still appears to have little chance of success.

Africa. The Soviets seem convinced that Angola is moving in the right direction, and that there is little the two superpowers can or need to do at this juncture. Moscow probably hopes the MPLA's pullout from Mavinga is seen as a gesture of conciliation and not a sign of weakness, and thus will pave the way for effective negotiations. The key, from Moscow's perspective, is to convince both UNITA and the MPLA hardliners the time is at hand to talk. At the summit, the Soviets will probably argue for a mutual arms cutoff and cease-fire.

The Soviets seem ready to cut their losses in Ethiopia but for the moment are prepared to let events take their course.

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Military supplies continue to trickle down, but it is unclear if they are the result of new deliveries or deals. There seems to be little Soviet enthusiasm for famine relief generally; even if there were, Moscow may not be in a position to render much help. Three Soviet transport planes in Ethiopia were recently bombed, according to Ambassador Dubinin.

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Although concerned about North Korea's nuclear programs and refusal to sign IAEA safeguards agreements, the Soviets probably calculate that further pressure on Pyongyang will bear little fruit without significant change in the military situation on the peninsula, and could even be counterproductive, given warming USSR-ROK ties. The Soviets may try to address the issue in the larger context of the need for a North/South dialogue on regional security, including the creation of a nuclear free zone or zone of peace, and reductions in US military presence, especially naval.

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: OVIP (SHULTZ, GEORGE P.)

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S JANUARY 17 MEETING WITH FRENCH
FOREIGN MINISTER CHEYSSON

1. (SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY: THE SECRETARY'S JANUARY 17 BILATERAL MEETING WITH CHEYSSON CONCENTRATED UPON LEBANON, WITH CHEYSSON INFORMING THE SECRETARY OF HIS DISCUSSION WITH GROMYKO THE PREVIOUS DAY. CHEYSSON SAID THAT IN THEIR PRIVATE SESSION GROMYKO HAD ASKED A SERIES OF DETAILED QUESTIONS REGARDING FRENCH VIEWS AS TO THE CREATION OF A UN FORCE FOR BEIRUT. CHEYSSON SPECULATED THAT THE SOVIETS MIGHT NOT WISH TO BE TIED COMPLETELY TO THE SYRIANS AND MIGHT THEREFORE BE WILLING TO DEMONSTRATE SOME FLEXIBILITY ON THIS ISSUE. HE INDICATED THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WOULD NOW PURSUE THE QUESTION BOTH WITH THE SYRIAN AND THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENTS. OTHER ISSUES DISCUSSED BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND CHEYSSON INCLUDED COE, THE PERSIAN

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END SUMMARY.

3. THE SECRETARY MET IN HIS HOTEL WITH FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER CHEYSSON 1015 TO 1045 ON JANUARY 17. ACCOMPANYING CHEYSSON WERE POLITICAL DIRECTOR ANDREANI, PM DIRECTOR RENOARD, PLANNING DIRECTOR GERGORIN, SPECIAL ASSISTANT DELBOURG AND ELYSEE STAFFER VEDREEN. PARTICIPATING ON US SIDE ASST SECY BURT, ASST SECY HUGHES, PM DIRECTOR HOWE, NSC STAFFER MATLOCK AND DAS DOBBINS.

4. CHEYSSON SAID THAT HIS CDE SPEECH THAT AFTERNOON CONCENTRATED ON TWO PARTS: THE FIRST ON BEHALF OF THE EC AND THE SECOND ON THOSE THINGS EC MEMBERS DID NOT PERMIT HIM TO SAY ON THEIR BEHALF. IT WAS DIFFICULT TO MAKE A STATEMENT ON DEFENSE ON BEHALF OF A GROUP WHICH RANGED FROM NEUTRAL (IRISH) TO NEUTRALIST (GREECE) TO NUCLEAR POWERS (UK AND FRANCE). THE SECOND HALF OF HIS STATEMENT WOULD CONTAIN A JUSTIFICATION OF INF DEPLOYMENT TO WHICH THE IRISH HAD OBJECTED AND A REAFFIRMATION THAT THE CDE SHOULD NOT DISCUSS NUCLEAR ISSUES, TO WHICH THE GREEKS OBJECTED.

. CHEYSSON SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN REQUESTED BY HIS EC COLLEAGUES, WITH WHOM HE HAD JUST HAD BREAKFAST, TO INDICATE THAT THEY APPRECIATED THE TONE OF PRESIDENT REAGAN'S SPEECH AND HOPED THAT IT WOULD CONTINUE TO BE REFLECTED THROUGHOUT THE CONFERENCE AND IN THE BILATERAL WITH GROMYKO. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL INDICATE TO THE SOVIETS THAT THE U.S. IS READY FOR A COMPREHENSIVE
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DIALOGUE. IF GROMYKO RESPONDS POSITIVELY THE SECRETARY WOULD BE PREPARED FOR AN EXCHANGE ON A BROAD AGENDA.

6. CHEYSSON SAID THAT HE HAD MET WITH GROMYKO THE PREVIOUS DAY BOTH PRIVATELY AND IN A LARGER GROUP WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE ADVISERS. THE LARGER MEETING HAD NOT BEEN ENCOURAGING. THE SOVIETS HAD REPEATEDLY STRESSED THEIR UNHAPPINESS WITH U.S. ACTION AND SAW THE U.S. HAND EVERYWHERE. THIS WAS RATHER

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DISAPPOINTING. THEIR PRIVATE SESSION WAS MORE INTERESTING, HOWEVER. GROMYKO HAD IMMEDIATELY INTRODUCED THE SUBJECT OF THE MIDDLE EAST.

7. RECALLING THAT THE SOVIETS HAD ON OCCASION SHOWN SIGNS OF ADOPTING A POSITIVE POSITION ON THE MIDDLE EAST IN RECENT MONTHS, INCLUDING SUPPORT FOR SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 540 ON THE GULF AND FOR A CEASEFIRE IN TRIPOLI, CHEYSSON SPECULATED THAT THE SOVIETS WANTED TO BE A LITTLE MORE INDEPENDENT OF SYRIA. THEY HAD BROADER OBJECTIVES BOTH WITH REGARD TO THE PLO AND IRAQ, FOR INSTANCE. THIS SOVIET DESIRE NOT TO BE TIED EXCLUSIVELY TO SYRIA MEANT, HOWEVER, THAT THEY MIGHT BE MORE FLEXIBLE REGARDING LEBANON. FRANCE HAD EARLIER DISCUSSED WITH THE SOVIETS THE POSSIBILITY OF THE USE OF UN OBSERVERS THERE. AT THEIR MEETING YESTERDAY THIS WAS THE FIRST ISSUE GROMYKO ADDRESSED ASKING A SERIES OF SPECIFIC QUESTIONS. GROMYKO ASKED WHETHER THE FRENCH HAD

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: OVIP (SHULTZ, GEORGE P.)
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S JANUARY 17 MEETING WITH FRENCH

RAISED IT WITH SYRIA. CHEYSSON INDICATED THAT WHILE FRANCE HAD DISCUSSED THE USE OF UN OBSERVERS IN THE SHUF, IT HAD NOT DISCUSSED A UN ROLE IN BEIRUT. FRENCH RELATIONS WITH SYRIA HAD BEEN STRAINED AFTER THE BOMBING OF THE FRENCH CONTINGENT AND THE FRENCH REACTION, AND IN ANY CASE, CHEYSSON SAID HE FIRST WANTED TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE WOULD BE ANY HOPE OF SECURITY COUNCIL AGREEMENT BEFORE RAISING THE MATTER WITH SYRIA ON THE BASIS OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH GROMYKO. HE NOW INTENDED TO DO SO.

8. CHEYSSON SAID OTHER QUESTIONS WHICH GROMYKO HAD ASKED INCLUDED THE COMPOSITION OF A UN FORCE IN BEIRUT. WOULD THE FRENCH WISH TO STAY? WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER MNF PARTICIPANTS? WHAT WOULD THE MANDATE FOR SUCH A FORCE LOOK LIKE? CHEYSSON SAID HE HAS RESPONDED THAT AS FRANCE IS ALREADY A MEMBER OF

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UNIFIL, IT WOULD BE PREPARED TO RETAIN TROOPS IN BEIRUT AS A PART OF THE UN FORCE BUT WOULD NOT INSIST

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UPON DOING SO. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE COMPOSITION OF SUCH A FORCE SHOULD BE LEFT TO UN SECRETARY GENERAL. CHEYSSON TOLD THE SECRETARY THAT HE HAD IN FACT DISCUSSED THIS ISSUE WITH PEREZ DE CUELLAR IN PARIS THE PRECEDING WEEK. REGARDING THE MANDATE CHEYSSON SAID HE TOLD GROMYKO THAT IT WOULD NEED TO BE WORKED OUT, AND OF COURSE THE REQUEST WOULD NEED TO COME FROM THE LEBANESE. CHEYSSON SAID HE WAS ENCOURAGED THAT GROMYKO HAD NOT ARGUED AGAINST A UN FORCE FOR EIRUT, AS THE SOVIETS HAD BEEN DOING UNTIL SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, ON THE BASIS THAT A UN FORCE WOULD BE AN INAPPROPRIATE INSTRUMENT TO RESPOND TO A DOMESTIC CONFLICT. CHEYSSON REPEATED THAT FRANCE NOW INTENDED TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF A FORCE WITH THE SYRIANS. HE RECALLED THAT IN EARLIER DISCUSSIONS HE HAD WITH KHADDAM, THE POSSIBILITY OF UNIFIL GUARDING THE PALESTINIAN CAMPS HAD BEEN DISCUSSED BUT NOT A ROLE IN BEIRUT PROPER. CHEYSSON SAID THAT THE FRENCH HAD TOLD GEMAYEL A MONTH AGO THAT THEY WOULD EXPLORE THIS POSSIBILITY. FRANCE WOULD NOW RENEW THESE DISCUSSIONS WITH GEMAYEL, THE FIRST MOVE HAVING TO COME FROM HIM.

9. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT IN THE US SUPPORT FOR MAINTAINING PARTICIPATION IN THE MNF WAS STRENGTHENING AGAIN AFTER SOME WEAKENING IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE LONG COMMISSION REPORT. THE PRESIDENT'S OWN RESOLUTION IN THIS REGARD WAS VERY STRONG. THOSE IN THE US WHO ADVOCATED THE WITHDRAWAL, WHAT WAS BECOMING THE "CUT AND RUN" OPTION, WOULD FIND, THE SECRETARY SAID, THAT THEY HAD
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MADE A MISTAKE. PROGRESS IN NEGOTIATING A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT APPEARED TIGHTLY CONNECTED WITH SYRIAN ANALYSIS OF RESOLUTION OF THE MNF PARTNERS. WHEN THEY PERCEIVE THIS RESOLUTION TO BE STRONG, THE NEGOTIATIONS PROGRESS. WHEN THEY PERCEIVE IT TO BE WEAK, THE SYRIANS BECOME IMPOSSIBLE TO TALK TO. IT WAS IMPORTANT, THEREFORE, TO DEMONSTRATE THE FIRMNESS OF THE MNF PARTNERS. THE ISRAELIS WERE PROVING COOPERATIVE, THE SECRETARY SAID. THEY HAD EVEN COOPERATED REGARDING THE PLO EVACUATION FROM TRIPOLI VERY MUCH AGAINST THEIR OWN INCLINATION.

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10. CHEYSSON SAID THAT IN FRANCE THERE WAS NOT A PROBLEM OF PUBLIC OPINION REGARDING LEBANON. THE GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, SAW LITTLE THAT THEIR FORCES IN LEBANON COULD DO, EXCEPT DEFEND THEMSELVES, AND EVEN THIS COULD NOT BE DONE PERFECTLY. PROTECTION FOR FRENCH FORCES HAD BEEN IMPROVED AND AS A RESULT, FRENCH CIVILIANS HAD BECOME TERRORIST TARGETS. THERE WERE 7,000 FRENCH CIVILIANS IN LEBANON. FRENCH SCHOOLS, CULTURAL CENTERS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS WERE POTENTIAL TARGETS. THE REDEPLOYMENT OF FRENCH FORCES WHICH HAD BEEN AGREED WITH LEBANON SEEMED TO BE WORKING WELL. WHEN FRENCH FORCES WERE ATTACKED THEY RESPONDED, MORE SHIITES WERE KILLED AND THE SITUATION DETERIORATED FURTHER. THIS COULD NOT GO ON INDEFINITELY. CERTAINLY THE SITUATION COULD NOT BE

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: OVIP (SHULTZ, GEORGE P.)
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S JANUARY 17 MEETING WITH FRENCH

*RESOLVED IN A MATTER OF WEEKS, BUT NEITHER COULD IT
DRAG ON FOR YEARS, IT HAD TO BE A QUESTION OF
MONTHS. THERE WERE ALREADY STRONG PRESSURES WITHIN
BOTH ITALY AND BRITAIN TO PULL OUT AND SUCH PRESSURES
COULD COME AGAIN IN THE UNITED STATES.*

11. THE SITUATION IN THE GULF ALSO WAS DISCUSSED.
THE SECRETARY SAID THAT THE U.S. HOPED THAT IT COULD
PERSUADE PEOPLE NOT TO SELL IRAN WEAPONS OR EQUIPMENT
SUCH AS MINES OR TORPEDO BOATS WHICH COULD BE USED TO
BLOCK THE GULF. CHEYSSON SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT TAKE
THE THREAT TO CLOSE THE GULF VERY SERIOUSLY. IT WAS
TECHNICALLY VERY DIFFICULT TO BLOCK THE GULF. IRAN
HAD A MAJOR INTEREST IN KEEPING IT OPEN. IRAN
CURRENTLY EXPORTED 2.1 TO 2.3
BARRELS OF OIL PER DAY, ALL OF IT THROUGH THE
STRAITS. WHILE MUCH OF IRAN'S POLICY WAS IRRATIONAL,

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ECONOMIC ISSUES WERE BEING HANDLED VERY CAREFULLY AND
PRUDENTLY. THE SECRETARY SAID THE U.S. WAS WORRIED

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THAT IF IRAQ SOUGHT TO BLOCK IRANIAN SHIPPING, IRAN MIGHT RETALIATE AGAINST IRAQ AND OTHER GULF PRODUCERS. EVEN IF THIS DID NOT CLOSE THE STRAITS ENTIRELY IT WOULD CREATE A VERY DIFFICULT SITUATION. CHEYSSON RESPONDED THAT IRAQ WOULD NOT DO SO. IRAQ MIGHT SINK ONE OR TWO SHIPS EVERY THREE MONTHS BUT THAT WOULD NOT HAVE ANY MAJOR IMPACT. HIS PRINCIPAL CONCERN WAS WITH IRANIAN SPONSORED TERRORISM AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE SOVIETS MIGHT SUPPLY MODERN SS-21 MISSILES TO IRAQ, WHICH IRAQ MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO USE. FRANCE WOULD SEEK TO IMPRESS UPON THE SYRIANS THE PROBLEMS OF IRANIAN SUPPORTED TERRORISM. CHEYSSON WAS VERY CONCERNED THAT THIS TERRORISM WOULD SPREAD TO WESTERN CITIES WHERE IT WOULD HAVE A MOST SERIOUS EFFECT. THE SECRETARY AGREED THAT STATE-SUPPORTED TERRORISM WAS THE MOST OMINOUS DEVELOPMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE TODAY. CHEYSSON WONDERED WHAT WAS TO BE DONE. OTHER ARAB NATIONS COULD BE PERSUADED NOT TO ASSIST SUCH EFFORTS BUT IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT ARAB GOVERNMENTS SUCH AS SYRIA WOULD ACTIVELY COLLABORATE IN COMBATTING SUCH TERRORISM. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT THE IRANIAN SUPPORTED TERRORISM COULD NOT OPERATE IN LEBANON WITHOUT SYRIA'S ACQUIESCENCE. CHEYSSON AGREED, NOTING THAT THE SYRIANS HATED TO BE TOLD THIS. HE DID NOT THINK THERE WAS MUCH CHANCE OF SECURING ACTIVE SYRIAN ASSISTANCE IN COMBATTING SUCH TERRORISM.

12. AS THE MEETING CONCLUDED CHEYSSON INQUIRED WHETHER A VISIT BY PRESIDENT REAGAN TO NORMANDY ON

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JUNE 6 HAD BEEN FIRMLY DECIDED UPON. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THAT IT HAD. HE ASKED WHO ELSE WOULD BE PRESENT. CHEYSSON SAID THAT MITTERAND WOULD CERTAINLY ATTEND THE CEREMONIES IF PRESIDENT REAGAN WERE THERE. HE INDICATED THAT MRS. THATCHER WAS PROBABLY ALSO COMING BUT SAID HE WOULD CONFIRM HER PARTICIPATION AND INFORM THE U.S.

13. BEIRUT MINIMIZE CONSIDERED

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS:OVIP (SHULTZ, GEORGE P.)
SUBJECT: GROMYKO MEETING

1. ~~S~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. FOLLOWING IS THE DRAFT I PROMISED YOU. IT IS DONE IN NARRATIVE FORM, RATHER THAN TALKING POINTS. AFTER PLAYING AROUND WITH BOTH FORMATS I CAME TO THE CONCLUSTON THE NARRATIVE APPROACH WAS EASIER TO USE. I KNOW THAT IF THE BOSS DECIDES TO USE ANY OF THIS HE WILL PUT IN IN HIS OWN WORDS. WHAT I AM TRYING TO GIVE YOU HERE IS THE THRUST AND CONTENT, NOT A SPEECH WHICH SHOULD BE FOLLOWED VERBATIM.

3. TEXT FOLLOWS: DEPARTMENT OF STATE 9303777 IS/FPC/CDR *SA* Date 10/4/96

MR. MINISTER:

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I AM PLEASED TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH YOU

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ONCE AGAIN, THIS TIME IN SOMEWHAT BETTER CIRCUMSTANCES THAN LAST SEPTEMBER. BUT LET ME DISPENSE WITH FURTHER PLEASANTRIES AND COME DIRECTLY TO THE POINT: WE HAVE A PROBLEM, YOU AND I, AND WE MUST DO BETTER THAN WE HAVE

TO DATE IN DEALING WITH IT. THE PROBLEM IS HOW TO MANAGE THE US-SOVIET RELATIONSHIP IN A MANNER WHICH ELIMINATES THE RISK OF DIRECT CONFLICT, REDUCES THE PRESENT DANGEROUS LEVEL OF CONFRONTATION, AND TURNS OUR ENERGIES TO PEACEFUL COMPETITION AND, WHERE POSSIBLE, COOPERATION. MAYBE WE CANNOT COPE WITH THIS CHALLENGE; MAYBE IT'S BIGGER THAN OUR CAPACITY TO MANAGE. BUT AT THIS STAGE OF OUR LIVES AND OF OUR NATIONS' HISTORIES, WE OWE IT TO OURSELVES AND OUR PEOPLES TO MAKE A SERIOUS EFFORT.

PRESIDENT REAGAN HAS NOW BEEN IN OFFICE FOR THREE YEARS: I ASSUME HE WILL DECIDE TO RUN AGAIN. IF SO, HE WILL BE RE-ELECTED. YOU MAY VIEW THAT PROSPECT WITHOUT ENTHUSIASM, BUT IT IS, NEVERTHELESS, A REALISTIC ANALYSIS. I WOULD ARGUE THAT YOU SHOULD WELCOME THAT PROSPECT BECAUSE IT BRINGS A MEASURE OF PREDICTABILITY AND CONSISTENCY TO THE WAY WE DEAL WITH THE WORLD, AND ESPECIALLY TO THE WAY WE DEAL WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

IN HIS SPEECH ON MONDAY, PRESIDENT REAGAN DESCRIBED OUR THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP. I HOPE YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES IN THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP HEARD WHAT WE INTENDED. WE ARE PREPARED TO DO BUSINESS AND TO SEE RELATIONS IMPROVE TO THE EXTENT THAT YOU ARE. WE DO NOT DELUDE OURSELVES THAT SOUNDS OF HARMONY WILL SUDDENLY PEAL ACROSS THE LANDSCAPE. BUT LIKEWISE WE

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SEE LITTLE BASIS FOR THE SOUNDS OF ALARM AND PESSIMISM WHICH YOU AND OTHER HAVE RAISED. WE SEE SEVERAL AREAS WHERE PRACTICAL PROGRESS SHOULD BE POSSIBLE. I'LL COME BACK TO THOSE AREAS LATER. EVEN IF THE BIG ISSUES DEFY NEAR-TERM SOLUTION, WE WOULD BE HELPED BY RESOLVING SOME SMALL BUT IMPORTANT PROBLEMS, BY SCALING BACK MUTUAL IRRITATIONS, INCLUDING PUBLIC NAME-CALLING, AND BY TRYING TO UNDERSTAND EACH OTHERS' BROAD PURPOSES.

YOU, MR. MINISTER, HAVE SAID THAT YOU ARE NOT CERTAIN

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WHAT PRESIDENT REAGAN AND HIS ADMINISTRATION ARE ABOUT. LET ME TRY TO EXPLAIN. RONALD REAGAN WAS ELECTED BECAUSE OF WHAT HE STOOD FOR: RESTORING CONFIDENCE IN AMERICA, STRENGTHENING OUR NATIONAL SECURITY, RESTORING OUR ECONOMIC VITALITY, AND GETTING BIG GOVERNMENT OFF THE PEOPLE'S BACKS. HE WAS ALSO ELECTED BECAUSE OF HOW HIS PREDECESSOR WAS PERCEIVED: INCONSISTENT, UNPREDICTABLE, AND UNCERTAIN. THE

NATIONAL "MALAISE" WHICH PRESIDENT CARTER DESCRIBED WAS PROBABLY A FACT IN THE LATE 70S. THE COMBINATION OF OUR NATIONAL DIVISIONS OVER VIETNAM, OF BROKEN TRUST THROUGH WATERGATE, AND OF PERCEIVED IMPOTENCE DURING THE IRAN HOSTAGE CRISIS PRODUCED A DEEP QUESTIONING OF OUR CAPACITY TO DEFINE AND ATTAIN SHARED NATIONAL GOALS. AT THE SAME TIME, WE SAW THE SOVIET UNION CONTINUING TO BUILD UP ITS OWN FORCES, AND PUSHING ITS PRESENCE AND INFLUENCE OUT INTO MORE DISTANT AREAS OF THE GLOBE TO OUR DETRIMENT. SUCH ACTIONS INTENSIFIED OUR QUESTIONING. BUT IT WAS A QUESTIONING THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANTED TO PUT BEHIND THEM. PRESIDENT REAGAN GAVE AMERICANS THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO.

THE PRESIDENT HAS ACCOMPLISHED A SUBSTANTIAL PART OF WHAT HE SET OUT TO DO. THE STRONG ECONOMIC RECOVERY IS TESTIMONY TO THE SUCCESS OF HIS APPROACH. THIS YEAR

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PROMISES TO BE MUCH BETTER THAN LAST. WE HAVE ALSO REDUCED THE SIZE OF GOVERNMENT AND CUT TAXES. AT THE SAME TIME, WE HAVE INCREASED DEFENSE SPENDING AND STRENGTHENED OUR ALLIANCE TIES. AND WITH THESE SUCCESSES, WE HAVE SEEN OUR PEOPLES' CONFIDENCE RETURN.

WE ARE, IN FACT, AT A POINT OF GENUINE OPPORTUNITY IN OUR FOREIGN POLICY, AND ESPECIALLY IN OUR RELATIONS WITH THE USSR. THE COMBINATION OF CIRCUMSTANCES, DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL--OR, IF YOU PREFER, "THE CORRELATION OF FORCES"--PROVIDES THE OPPORTUNITY FOR POSTTIVE MOVEMENT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SEVERAL YEARS IF THERE IS ADEQUATE WILL ON BOTH SIDES. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THERE IS ADEQUATE WILL ON OUR SIDE.

I REALIZE THAT YOU SEE THE PATTERN OF OUR BEHAVIOR (AND

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YOUR OWN) DIFFERENTLY, BUT LET ME SPELL OUT HOW I SEE THE RECORD OF EVENTS OVER THE PAST DECADE AND WHY I THINK THEY ADD UP TO A MOMENT OF OPPORTUNITY NOW. LET ME START WITH THE "DETENTE" POLICIES OF THE NIXON YEARS. DESPITE THE ROSY HINDSIGHT MANY PEOPLE APPLY TO THAT PERIOD, I KNOW AND YOU KNOW THAT THE STEPS WE TOOK THEN HAD TO WITHSTAND CLOSE AND CRITICAL SCRUTINY, AND THAT THERE WERE SETBACKS AS WELL AS SUCCESSES. WE NEVER DEVELOPED THE SORT OF ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL TIES THAT MANY PEOPLE SAW THEN AS THE "WEB OF INTERRELATIONSHIPS" INTENDED TO STRENGTHEN THE BONDS BETWEEN US AND TO CUSHION ANY SETBACKS. ON THE OTHER HAND, DETENTE IN EUROPE PRODUCED IMPORTANT AND LASTING

BENEFITS WHICH HAVE LARGELY BEEN MAINTAINED. BUT THE VERY SUCCESS OF DETENTE IN EUROPE ILLUSTRATES ITS SHORTCOMINGS ELSEWHERE: THE US AND THE USSR HAVE

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GLOBAL INTERESTS AND GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITIES; OUR CONCERNS ARE NOT REGIONAL, AND THE EFFECTS OF OUR NATIONAL BEHAVIOR ARE NOT LIMITED TO SPECIFIC PROBLEM-SOLVING. OUR RELATIONSHIP MUST BE SEEN AS A WHOLE; IMPROVEMENT IN ONE AREA HELPS IN OTHERS, BUT THE REVERSE IS ALSO TRUE. IN MY VIEW, THE GREATEST SUCCESS OF THE DETENTE PERIOD FOR THE US WAS THE CREATION OF NEW PERCEPTIONS ABOUT THE USSR, OF NEW PATTERNS OF INTERACTION AND -- NOT LEAST-- OF NEW AGREEMENTS, PARTICULARLY ON ARMS LIMITATIONS. I WAS A STRONG SUPPORTER OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S APPROACH TO RELATIONS WITH THE USSR AND I REMAIN AN ADMIRER OF HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

BUT MANY AMERICANS -- WITH JUSTICE -- BECAME DEEPLY DISILLUSIONED OVER THE RESULTS OF "DETENTE," TO THE POINT WHERE THE WORD ITSELF CAME TO BE PEJORATIVE. WHY DID THIS HAPPEN? NOT BECAUSE OF SOME GREAT CONSPIRACY OR ANTI-SOVIET CRUSADE, BUT BECAUSE OF THE PERCEPTION IN THE MINDS OF MANY AMERICANS THAT OUR EFFORTS AT RESTRAINT AND ACCOMMODATION WERE NOT MATCHED BY SIMILAR POLICIES ON THE SOVIET SIDE. OUR DEFENSE SPENDING DECLINED, IN REAL DOLLAR TERMS AND AS A PROPORTION OF OUR FEDERAL BUDGET AND GNP, OVER NEARLY THE WHOLE DECADE OF THE 70S; SOVIET DEFENSE SPENDING CONTINUED TO

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INCREASE AT A STEADY RATE DURING THAT PERIOD. WE DID NOT DEVELOP OR DEPLOY ANY NEW STRATEGIC WEAPONS SYSTEMS, NOR DID WE OR NATO MODERNIZE OUR INTERMEDIATE FORCES SIGNIFICANTLY; THE USSR INTRODUCED NEW SYSTEMS AND MODERNIZED OTHERS, INCLUDING MOST IMPORTANTLY, ITS DEPLOYMENT OF SS-20 MISSILES TARGETTED ON WESTERN EUROPE, AND "BACKFIRE" BOMBERS DEPLOYED IN SEVERAL AREAS.

IN 1975, THOSE THE US HAD SUPPORTED WERE MILITARILY DEFEATED IN INDOCHINA BY YOUR VIETNAMESE ALLIES, WITH

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STRONG SOVIET SUPPORT. IN 1976, THE ABRUPT PORTUGUESE WITHDRAWAL FROM ANGOLA CREATED A DANGEROUSLY UNSTABLE SITUATION. THE UNITED STATES CHOSE NOT TO INVOLVE ITSELF IN ANGOLA. BUT THE USSR PROVIDED MASSIVE ASSISTANCE TO ITS FRIENDS IN ANGOLA, DIRECTLY AND THROUGH THE CUBANS. THEN IN 1979 THE TAKEOVER OF OUR EMBASSY IN TEHRAN WAS FOLLOWED ONLY A FEW WEEKS LATER BY THE SOVIET INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN. IN EACH OF

THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WAS THE SOVIET UNION, NOT THE UNITED STATES, THAT SOUGHT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF CIRCUMSTANCES FOR UNILATERAL BENEFIT. IT IS, TODAY, THE SOVIET UNION, NOT THE UNITED STATES, THAT SEEKS TO INCREASE TENSIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, CENTRAL AMERICA, SOUTHWEST ASIA, ETC. IT WAS THE SOVIET UNION, NOT THE UNITED STATES, THAT BEGAN THE INF ARMS RACE IN EUROPE. I DO NOT PRETEND THAT THESE EVENTS HAVE ALONE DEFINED THE UNIVERSE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP. BUT THEY CLEARLY HAVE AFFECTED AN IMPORTANT PART OF THAT UNIVERSE, AND THE PERCEPTIONS CREATED IN THIS COUNTRY OF SOVIET EXPANSIONISM AND OPPORTUNISM, COUPLED WITH AMERICAN RESTRAINT, HAVE, WITHOUT DOUBT AFFECTED OUR WILLINGNESS TO PURSUE CONCILIATORY POLICIES.

OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS, BOTH THE FACTS OF THE GLOBAL SITUATION AND THE PERCEPTION OF THOSE FACTS IN THE UNITED STATES HAVE CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY FOR THE BETTER, FROM OUR STANDPOINT. WE NO LONGER DOUBT OURSELVES. OUR DEFENSES ARE STRONG, OUR ECONOMY IS ON THE ROAD TO MAJOR EXPANSION, OUR ALLIANCES ARE HEALTHY. I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THESE CHANGES HAVE BEEN

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ACCOMPANIED BY SOME HEIGHTENED RHETORIC. I UNDERSTAND YOUR DISCOMFORT WITH THESE VERBAL BARBS, SINCE WE HAVE

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BEEN THE TARGET OF STRONG LANGUAGE FROM THE SOVIET UNION FOR DECADES.

LET ME REITERATE MORE SPECIFICALLY WHAT THE PRESIDENT SAID IN HIS SPEECH: WE DO NOT THREATEN THE SOVIET UNION OR ITS VITAL INTERESTS; WE BELIEVE THAT THERE IS A NEED FOR A CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE BETWEEN US; WE BELIEVE THAT THE TIME IS RIGHT FOR SOME SMALL STEPS WHICH COULD LEAD TO BIGGER STEPS; AND WE BELIEVE THAT OUR PEOPLE AND THE PEOPLES OF EUROPE ARE READY TO SUPPORT SUCH EFFORTS.

THE CENTRAL ISSUE BETWEEN US IS THE AVOIDANCE OF WAR. IF WE DO NOT AGREE, AT LEAST TACITLY, ON THAT ISSUE, THE REMAINDER OF OUR AGENDA AND YOURS IS IRRELEVANT. WE MUST FACE THIS QUESTION OPENLY OR, IF YOU PREFER, PRIVATELY. BUT THERE MUST BE SOME MINIMUM LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING ABOUT WHAT YOU CONSIDER ESSENTIAL TO YOUR NATIONAL SECURITY, AND WHAT WE CONSIDER ESSENTIAL FOR OURS. WE DO NOT CLAIM, AS YOU HAVE CHARGED, THAT WE HAVE VITAL INTERESTS EVERYWHERE, OR THAT WE SEEK TO UNDERMINE THE LEGITIMACY OF THE SOVIET STATE. WE DO BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THE PRESENT LEVEL OF TENSION

BETWEEN US IS ABNORMAL AND DANGEROUS. WE CAN, IF NECESSARY, CONTINUE ALONG THE PRESENT PATH, AND WE CERTAINLY WILL CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN OUR DEFENSE CAPABILITIES AND OUR EXTERNAL ALLIANCES AND FRIENDSHIPS. LIKEWISE WE WILL REACT TO SOVIET BEHAVIOR THAT WE FIND UNACCEPTABLE, WHETHER IT BE EVENTS LIKE THE KAL SHOOTDOWN, OR HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES, OR THE VIOLATION OF SIGNED AGREEMENTS.

WE TAKE SUCH ISSUES VERY SERIOUSLY, AS YOU WELL KNOW. THE QUESTION OF COMPLIANCE WITH AGREEMENTS, ESPECIALLY ON ARMS CONTROL, IS CENTRAL TO OUR WILLINGNESS AND

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ABILITY TO DO BUSINESS IN OTHER AREAS. YOU MAY CLAIM--AS I ASSUME YOU WILL--THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS NOT VIOLATED ANY OF ITS AGREEMENTS WITH US, AND I SEE NO PURPOSE TO BE SERVED HERE BY GETTING INTO A DETAILED DEBATE ON THOSE QUESTIONS. BUT IT IS ALL TOO OBVIOUS THAT, AT A MINIMUM, YOU HAVE SOUGHT TO STRETCH THE LIMITS OF WHAT IS PERMITTED IN A NUMBER OF OUR AGREEMENTS BY WHAT WESTERN LAWYERS DESCRIBE AS SHARP PRACTICE. YOU HAVE, IN OTHER WORDS, VIOLATED AT LEAST THE SPIRIT OF SUCH AGREEMENTS. IT IS ALSO CLEAR TO US THAT ON SOME OCCASIONS YOU HAVE, AS WELL, VIOLATED THE LETTER OF OUR UNDERSTANDINGS. SUCH CANNOT BUT ERODE THE ELEMENT OF TRUST WHICH IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE CONDUCT OF NORMAL BUSINESS BETWEEN US. IT IS THIS TRUST WHICH I MOST EARNESTLY SEEK TO TRY TO RESTORE THROUGH OUR MEETING TODAY, AND THROUGH THE CONCRETE STEPS TOWARD MORE NORMAL CONTACTS WHICH THE PRESIDENT HAS PROPOSED.

WE ARE NOT LOOKING FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO EMBARRASS OR ABUSE THE SOVIET UNION. WE DO NOT SEEK CONFRONTATION. WE DO NOT SEEK UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE OR SPECIAL FAVORS. WE SEEK AN IMPROVED CLIMATE IN WHICH WE CAN RESOLVE REASONABLE DIFFERENCES IN A REASONABLE WAY, IN WHICH WE CAN RESTORE THAT ELEMENT OF TRUST WHICH IS ESSENTIAL TO THE CONDUCT OF BUSINESS EVEN BETWEEN ADVERSARIES, AND IN WHICH WE CAN APPROACH THE GREAT ISSUES OF OUR TIME--THE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES OF WAR AND PEACE, OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR OUR PEOPLE--WITH A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS PLANET WHICH WE UNIQUELY SHARE.

LET ME ALSO REMARK, MR. MINISTER, THAT THE USSR WILL BE
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MAKING A SERIOUS MISTAKE IN JUDGMENT IF IT DECIDES THAT WHAT THE PRESIDENT HAS RECENTLY SAID IS DONE WITH AN EYE TOWARD THE ELECTION THIS FALL. IT WAS NOT; RONALD REAGAN WILL BE REELECTED NO MATTER WHAT THE STATE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP. THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH WAS MADE BECAUSE HE BELIEVES THE TIME HAS COME -- INDEED, HAS LONG SINCE COME -- WHEN OUR TWO NATIONS MUST FIND A

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MORE PRODUCTIVE WAY TO DEAL WITH EACH OTHER.

I WOULD WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY, MR. MINISTER, TO EXPAND OUR DIALOGUE AND TO RESOLVE SOME OF THE ISSUES ON OUR AGENDA AND YOURS. I INVITE YOU TO TEST OUR COMMITMENT AND THE OPPORTUNITY WHICH THIS MOMENT PROVIDES. AS WE PROCEED TO OUR DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC ISSUES: ARMS CONTROL, THE MIDDLE EAST, SOUTHERN AFRICA, ETC., I SHALL TRY TO DESCRIBE TO YOU WHAT WE ARE SEEKING TO ACCOMPLISH. I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU IN THIS SAME REGARD. PERHAPS, THIS WAY, WE CAN BEGIN TO FIND THE PATH TO A LESS CONFRONTATIONAL, AND MORE COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP. END TEXT.
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United States Department of State

Washington, D. C. 20520

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BRIEFING MEMORANDUM
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TO: The Secretary

FROM: EUR - Richard Burt **RB**

SUBJECT: The Meeting of NATO Foreign Ministers in Stockholm,
7:30 PM, January 16

I. YOUR OBJECTIVES

1. Set forth your approach to East-West relations and other international issues, including approach to the Gromyko bilateral and prospects for arms control, US-Soviet dialogue, and regional questions including the Middle East (informal meeting and dinner).

2. With regard to the CDE, stress the need for Allied unity on NATO package of concrete measures and opposition to Eastern attempts to divert attention to declaratory measures or to restrict needed Western defense activities, including those of CENTCOM. Reiterate that we have no flexibility on the transits issue (if there is no give from the Germans and British, there is no need to solve the issue here or to agree to German suggestions to "defer" the issue). (Coffee following dinner).

II. SETTING

The NATO meeting which French Foreign Minister Cheysson will host in Stockholm on January 16 will consist of two parts:

First, at 7:30 PM, an informal working session for Ministers only, followed at 8:30 by a dinner for Ministers only, which will provide an opportunity for a wide-ranging discussion of international issues. (Political Directors, CDE Ambassadors, and Ambassadors to Sweden will have a separate dinner.)

Second, at 22:00, the Political Directors, CDE Ambassadors and Ambassadors to Sweden will join the Ministers for after dinner coffee. This would be an opportunity for a brief discussion of the Western approach to the CDE conference itself.

Given this sequence, we have prepared two sets of themes

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for you to draw on, one concentrating on the international agenda, with particular emphasis on East-West relations and your January 18 bilateral with Gromyko (at Tab 1), and one concentrating on the CDE (at Tab 2)..

On the CDE itself, NATO is close to agreement on a package of measures. The French have proposed a solution to the transits issue which meets our requirements. Nevertheless, if this issue is not resolved in NATO discussions this week, your personal reiteration of its importance to us may well be necessary to bring the others -- especially the UK and FRG -- along. You will also want to emphasize to the Allies the seriousness we attach to the need for balance between the CDE and the human rights elements of the overall CSCE process. And you will want to stress the need for continuing Allied unity in the effort to achieve concrete confidence building measures which will actually reduce the risk of surprise attack, rather than being diverted by the Soviets and possibly the neutrals into discussion of nebulous political resolutions.

The themes for the private Ministerial meeting and dinner set forth in general terms the topics you would intend to raise with Gromyko, underscoring for the Allies our genuine desire to reanimate the US-Soviet dialogue on the full international agenda. In this context, you will want to convey to the Allies our current thinking on the prospects for arms control and regional issues. In particular, although you will have had a discussion of the situation with the MNF participants earlier in the afternoon, you will want to present our views on the Middle East to the wider group of your NATO colleagues at dinner. The allies may also bring up Poland, asking what steps the US plans to take in response to Walesa's call for a lessening of sanctions against Poland.

III. PARTICIPANTS

U.S.

The Secretary
Richard Burt
(Coffee Only)
Ambassador Forsberg
(Coffee Only)
Ambassador Goodby
(Coffee Only)
Raymond Seitz
(Coffee only)

OTHERS

NATO Foreign Ministers
NATO Pol Directors
(Coffee Only)
NATO Ambassadors to Sweden
(Coffee Only)
NATO CDE Ambassadors
(Coffee Only)
Personal Assistants
(Coffee only)

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IV. PRESS ARRANGEMENTS

Pool photographers will be present to cover the arrival of ministers.

Attachments:

Tab 1: Themes for January 16 Ministerial Meeting and Dinner

Tab 2: Themes for January 16 CDE Discussion over Coffee

Drafter: EUR/RPM:JHHawes *JHH*
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Cleared: EUR:JDobbins
PM:JWalker
EUR/SOV:AVerschbow
CDE:Ambassador Goodby } *JWH*

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NATO WORKING SESSION AND DINNERMONDAY, JANUARY 16, 1984

1930

Arrive at French Ambassador's residence, Narvavagen 26. Leave coat in car. A uniformed security guard and a portier will be at the door of the residence. Proceed through the door straight ahead 20 feet. Pass through the glass door on your left, climbing the stairs and then through the open wooden door, where you will be greeted by French Foreign Minister Cheysson. You proceed straight ahead for 15 feet, turn left into the sitting room and then right, proceeding through the second sitting room to the meeting room. Once all ministers have taken seats, French Ambassador to Sweden Blanc will close the doors to the meeting room.

2030

At the conclusion of your meeting, pass out of the meeting room immediately on your left.

2200

After Dinner, turn left as you leave the dining room and proceed straight ahead to the larger sitting room for coffee. Assembled there will be the NATO and Bilateral Ambassadors and the NATO Political Directors.

2230

Leave French Residence for return to hotel.

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Secretary's Remarks at Informal Meeting and Dinner
for NATO Foreign Ministers, Hosted by France,
7:30 PM, January 16, 1984

-- Appreciate French initiative in organizing dinner; this is an important opportunity to share views on East-West relations and the international situation.

-- In acceding to Allied desires that Stockholm opening ceremony be conducted at level of Foreign Ministers, US wanted to underscore commitment to pursuit of constructive East-West relations. This was the theme of NATO communique in December. It was the message of the President's speech on East-West relations last week. And it will be central thrust of bilateral discussion with Gromyko on Wednesday.

-- We will all want to use the meetings here in Stockholm to put forward a positive Western program, and to put the onus on the Soviets to resume the dialogue which they have interrupted.

-- But we cannot allow the Soviets, through their negative actions, to narrow our own sights to a single question of their willingness to talk and to force us to come begging to them. Rather, we must keep our attention focused on all aspects of the international situation which affect our common security and well-being.

The Gromyko Bilateral

-- Beyond the general theme of our interest in reestablishing a dialogue, I intend in my bilateral with Gromyko to concentrate on arms control, regional questions, and human rights.

-- Although the Soviets are publicly dampening expectations that anything can be done on arms control, and are trying to shift blame to the West because of INF deployments, bilateral will nevertheless be an opportunity to explore the prospects for getting the Soviets back into negotiations on START, INF, and MBFR.

-- It will also allow us to reaffirm our commitment to the Committee on Disarmament's efforts to achieve a worldwide chemical weapons ban, as well as to emphasize our serious approach to the CDE.

Message to East Europe

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-- We do not expect any immediate results. The Soviets may not know themselves how they intend to move next. For the moment they seem to be maintaining continuity in policy and keeping their options open, as shown by the Gromyko decision to come to Stockholm.

-- I am convinced, however, that it is not politically tenable nor in the Soviets' military interest for them to maintain their arms control boycott indefinitely. Thus, they will have to make some decisions. I hope the reestablishment of a dialogue can facilitate that process.

-- For our part, I intend to reaffirm the President's readiness to explore mutual trade-offs in START and to find equitable solution in INF at levels below planned NATO deployment.

-- I will also raise with Gromyko the issue of Soviet compliance with existing arms control agreements. We have informed you of the results of our analysis of this question. It is essential that the Soviet Union understand that it cannot ignore international commitments. It is also essential that in our own efforts to negotiate arms control agreements -- which will continue -- we give full attention to the problem of verifiability. I intend to emphasize that our approach to compliance is constructive: we would welcome additional information or concrete steps to alleviate our concerns.

-- The most important regional issue is, of course, the Middle East. Will underscore to Gromyko our objectives in seeking stability in Lebanon, our continuing concerns about the dangerous implications of the Soviet relationship with Syria, and the risks of Israeli-Syrian conflict inherent in the present situation. Although the Soviets have told us in the past that they had urged restraint on the Syrians, it is not clear what either the Soviet or Syrian longer-term objectives are in the region.

-- Will also press Gromyko on Afghanistan, reiterating our support for UN efforts and stressing that an agreement must provide for Soviet withdrawal, return of refugees, establishment of an Afghan government responsive to the will of the Afghan people, and guarantees of Afghan independence and non-alignment.

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-- On human rights, I will be raising with Gromyko our concern at the Soviet treatment of individual dissidents as well as the overall Soviet obduracy on Jewish emigration, which we have discussed before as an issue for all CSCE participants following Madrid. I will also be noting the case of Raoul Wallenberg, which is particularly appropriate given the venue and timing of our meeting.

Poland

-- Understand some of you have expressed interest in moving on Poland. We are currently looking closely at the question and hope to be in a position to consult with you in the very near future.

The Middle East

-- The US, along with all members of the Alliance, shares an active interest in peace in the Middle East. Together with the other members of the MNF, we are actively engaged in working toward an agreement in Lebanon which would expand the authority of the central government and permit the withdrawal of all foreign forces. We will continue our efforts in this direction, including maintaining the presence of a US Marine force, despite the domestic controversy that has arisen because of Marine casualties.

-- The US is further committed to longer-term progress on the overall issues of Arab-Israeli relations. We believe there are prospects for further positive developments in that area, following Arafat's evacuation from Tripoli and his meeting with Mubarak.

-- We are also very concerned at the implications of the continuing Iran-Iraq conflict, and have been working to prevent the conflict from spreading to other countries in the region or posing a threat to the flow of oil from the Gulf. A parallel aspect of this problem is the increasing threat from Iranian terrorism, which has claimed hundreds of victims in recent months.

China and Japan

-- Turning to another part of the world, we have just completed a very successful visit to the US by Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang. We regard this as a further important step in the development of our relations with China, which we regard as an important contribution to global stability. We expect that President Reagan's return visit in April will further advance our friendly ties.

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-- Development of our relations with China parallels the development of relations with Japan, which is of increasing importance as a member of the Western community, not simply as a trading partner but as a political and security ally. The slow transition in Japanese consciousness regarding their international role is continuing and is very welcome.

The Economic Future

-- As we look to 1984, one of the key reasons for Western optimism must be the general economic recovery. Although it has not started at the same time or pace in all countries, its general spread is unmistakable. The OECD looks to a very healthy 1984.

-- The upturn last year in the US exceeded even the most optimistic expectations. Unemployment is sharply down, production is up, and there is no sign of a return to inflation. The US trade deficit has contributed significantly to transmitting the effects of the US recovery to our trading partners.

-- This should make it possible for all of our governments to build domestic support, to deal constructively with trade problems without further resort to protectionism, and to find the resources necessary for Alliance defense. The Reagan administration has continued to fight protectionism, and to finance a major increase in defense spending, while trimming the budget on the domestic side. This has not been a politically easy course, but it is a realistic one.

Conclusion

-- The irony of 1984 is that, while the Soviet Union is preaching crisis, the prospects for realistic East-West dialogue, for improvement in international security, and for a strengthening Western economies and societies, look very good indeed. We need to work together to translate these healthy prospects into solid achievements.

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Secretary's Remarks on CDE
For After-Dinner Discussion
10:00 PM, January 16, 1984

-- I was extremely pleased that the Alliance was able, in the Madrid conference, to achieve agreement on a mandate for the CDE which met our objectives. The Madrid conference was a model of what can be achieved by Western unity.

-- That same unity will be essential throughout the Stockholm conference. Our objective must be to achieve concrete, meaningful measures of military security, and in the process to ensure that our publics better understand the nature of the security problem in Europe posed both by the forces of the Soviet Union and by its geographic advantages.

-- The Soviet concept of the CDE differs from that of the Alliance. They are likely to advance proposals for broad "political" agreements, to attempt to embarrass the West, and to divide us from the Neutral and Nonaligned by focusing on propagandistic subjects such as nuclear weapons free zones and non-first use pledges.

-- The Soviets may also seek to reopen the question of the zone of application of measures agreed in the conference, returning to arguments which they made unsuccessfully in Madrid.

-- Although such Soviet tactics would be transparent efforts to divert attention from the real issue of the threat of surprise attack posed by massive Soviet forces in Europe, some of the neutrals might be tempted to tolerate them as a gesture of alleged "evenhandedness" between East and West.

-- Clearly, the way to achieve a constructive result from the Stockholm conference will be to insist calmly and patiently that the conference keep its attention focused on the objectives and principles already agreed in the Madrid mandate:

o that measures be militarily significant, and thus eschew propagandistic political pledges;

o that they be politically binding and verifiable, thus ensuring that they cannot be ignored once agreed; and

o that they pertain to the whole of Europe, thus bringing in the entirety of European Russia, as the Soviets have accepted.

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-- NATO has developed a sound package of measures with these purposes and principles in mind. We should work hard for its adoption.

-- I know that there are ideas in the Alliance for additional measures which we might put forward at some point in the CDE. We are willing to consider within the relevant Alliance committees in Brussels such additional proposals as individual Allies wish to raise, to see if a consensus might be developed on any of them.

-- (If needed) I regret that one issue has remained unresolved in the NATO package of measures, namely the question of whether or not the transit of US forces through Europe should be subject to notification.

-- At the NAC meeting January 10 we came very close to resolving this issue. In these circumstances it would be most unfortunate to delay resolution, jeopardizing the completion of the NATO package in which so much work has been invested and threatening the Alliance unity which has proved so important to success in CSCE.

o As I wrote to you after Christmas, this is a fundamental political and strategic issue for the US, and one of major significance for the security interests of the entire West.

o This common security interest has been discussed with increasing frequency in the Alliance over the past several years, particularly since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq war.

-- When the US agreed to support the concept of a CDE mandate, at the beginning of the Reagan Administration -- the Carter administration having fought the idea -- one of our major considerations, which was made clear at the time, was that an eventual conference could in no way give the Soviet Union a handle on activities related to security in other areas.

o This could weaken our ability to deter and defend against Soviet adventurism and other threats, notably in Southwest Asia, and could create political problems within the Alliance.

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o The CDE cannot and will not achieve productive results relevant to security in Europe if it attempts to create artificial constraints on activities directed elsewhere. This would only serve Soviet interests.

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88TOKYO 012508

EXCISE

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ACTION EAP-00

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	DODE-00	H-01	MSC-01	IO-19	NEA-06	NSCE-00	NSAE-00
	SSO-00	HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-01	CCO-00
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E.O.12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PREL, MARR, MOPS, IR, US, JA
SUBJECT: [REDACTED] IRANIAN REACTION
TO IRAN AIR INCIDENT

1. ~~SECRET~~ -- ENTIRE TEXT.

SUMMARY

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2. [REDACTED] THAT:

-- IN TEHRAN THE IRAN AIR INCIDENT HAS PRODUCED SHARP
CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT;

-- IRANIAN POPULAR OUTRAGE OVER THE INCIDENT IS QUITE
LIMITED;

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-- KHOMEINI IS SUPPORTING RAFSANJANI'S MODERATION AND NOT MONTAZERI'S EXTREMISM;

-- KHOMEINI HAS VETOED THE KILLING OF A BEIRUT HOSTAGE FOR THE INCIDENT.

CRITICISM FOR ENDANGERING CIVILIAN AVIATION

2. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] CLAIMED THE MAJORITY OF IRANIANS AS WELL AS IRANIAN MODERATES ARE FEELING ANGRY OVER DOWNING OF IRAN AIR 655. HOWEVER, THE "ANTI-GOVERNMENT GROUP" [REDACTED] IS CRITICIZING THE GOVERNMENT FOR INTENTIONALLY FLYING CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT INTO A BATTLE ZONE OVER THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ. [REDACTED] IRAN AIR PILOTS STAGED A TWENTY-FOUR HOUR STRIKE AFTER THE IRAN AIR INCIDENT TO PROTEST BEING COMPELLED TO FLY UNDER DANGEROUS CIRCUMSTANCES. THE PILOTS [REDACTED] ARE STRONGLY CRITICAL OF THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT.

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WAR-WEARY IRANIANS "ALMOST" GOT ANGRY

3. [REDACTED] THERE WERE NO DEMONSTRATIONS ANYWHERE IN IRAN IN REACTION TO THE IRAN AIR INCIDENT. THE RECENT GATHERING IN TEHRAN WAS AN ORGANIZED RALLY TO MOURN THE DEATHS OF SOME VICTIMS BUT NOT A DEMONSTRATION. [REDACTED] THE IRANIAN POPULAR REACTION WAS STRIKINGLY MODEST IN COMPARISON TO THE ANTI-SAUDI REACTION IN THE WAKE OF THE 1987 MECCA INCIDENT. [REDACTED] THE IRANIAN PEOPLE "ALMOST" GOT ANGRY AT THE INCIDENT BUT THE NUMBER OF VICTIMS WAS LESS APPALLING IN COMPARISON WITH THE TREMENDOUS SUFFERING ALREADY INFLICTED BY THE WAR WITH IRAQ. [REDACTED] THE IRANIAN LEADERS, ESPECIALLY KHOMEINI, UNDERSTAND THAT WESTERN COUNTRIES TAKE THE AIRCRAFT DOWNING VERY SERIOUSLY. THE IRANIAN LEADERS ARE TRYING TO EXPLOIT THIS, DESPITE THE LACK OF WIDESPREAD POPULAR OUTRAGE.

RADICALS DRIVING MONTAZERI

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5. [REDACTED] IRANIAN RADICALS AND EXTREMISTS
(NFI) RECENTLY APPROACHED AYATOLLAH MONTAZERI AND
DECLARED SUPPORT FOR HIS POLICY, PARTICULARLY IN FOREIGN
AFFAIRS. MONTAZERI [REDACTED] IS BEING
EXPLOITED AND DRIVEN BY THE RADICALS.

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	SSO-00	HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-01	CCO-00
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E.O.12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PREL, MARR, MOPS, IR, US, JA
SUBJECT: JAPAN PERCEIVES RESTRAINED IRANIAN REACTION
KHOMEINI SUPPORTS RAFSANJANI

6. ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] KHOMEINI IS
SUPPORTING RAFSANJANI.

[REDACTED] SAID THAT
RAFSANJANI HAD MADE EFFORTS TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM THE

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DOWNING OF IRAN AIR 655 TOWARD THE WAR WITH IRAQ. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] RAFSANJANI WILL TRY TO
EXPLOIT THE IRAN AIR INCIDENT TO PUSH THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT IRAN AND ENCOURAGE THE REMOVAL OF US
SHIPS FROM THE GULF.

NO HOSTAGE KILLING

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 88TOKYO 012508

7. [REDACTED] RECALLED THE RECENT ANONYMOUS PHONE CALL TO A MAJOR NEWS AGENCY IN BEIRUT ANNOUNCING THAT ONE AMERICAN HOSTAGE SHOULD BE HANGED. THOUGH UNABLE TO PRESENT EVIDENCE, [REDACTED] CONCLUDED THE PHONE CALL WAS FALSE SINCE ISLAMIC JIHAD KIDNAPPERS ALWAYS PRESENT A DOCUMENT (E.G. PASSPORT OR PHOTO) WHEN DECLARING THEIR INTENTIONS. A SIMPLE PHONE CALL IS NOT THE STANDARD METHOD OF OPERATION. FURTHERMORE [REDACTED] BELIEF THAT KHOMEINI DID NOT PERMIT THE IRANIAN MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR TO ISSUE AN INSTRUCTION PERMITTING THE HANGING OF A HOSTAGE. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] RAFSANJANI SAID THAT IRAN -- NOT INDEPENDENT GROUPS/KIDNAPPERS -- SHOULD RESPOND TO THE IRAN AIR INCIDENT.

KHOMEINI DECLINES MONTAZERI APPEAL

8. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] THAT KHOMEINI'S RESPONSE TO MONTAZERI'S APPEAL FOR WAR ON ALL FRONTS DID NOT REPEAT NOT APPROVE OF MONTAZERI'S PLAN. DESPITE WESTERN PRESS REPORTS TO THE CONTRARY, [REDACTED] THAT EVEN SOME IRANIANS THUGHT KHOMEINI'S RESPONSE -- DUE TO THE RHETORIC SED -- SUGGESTED SUPPORT FOR MONTAZERI. [REDACTED]

INCREASINGLY IRANIAN FLEXIBILITY?

9. [REDACTED] THE IRANIAN FOREIGN INISTRY DECISION TO RAISE THE IRAN AIR INCIDENT N THE SECURITY COUNCIL IS A VERY NEW FACTOR. IT IS A SIGN OF CHANGE AND INCREASING FLEXIBILITY I THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT.

COMMENT

10. [REDACTED]

11 BAGHDAD AND BEIRUT MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.

MANRFELD

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The International Drug Problem and U.S. Foreign Policy

September 1988

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The International Drug Problem and U.S. Foreign Policy

Scope of the Problem

The production, trafficking, and consumption of illicit narcotics increasingly threaten American society as well as this nation's relations with other countries. Crime, corruption, and violence have become the tools of the international narcotics trade, a multibillion-dollar business that touches every part of the United States and many foreign countries. Domestically, the use of marijuana, heroin, cocaine, the cocaine derivative "crack," and other harmful drugs has reached unprecedented and unacceptable levels.

With the White House, Congress, and other executive branch agencies, the Department of State has developed a foreign policy strategy to reduce the production and trafficking of illicit drugs in order to destroy the international drug cartels whose profits come at society's expense. This pamphlet explains the State Department's efforts to confront the global dimensions of the drug problem.

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A Worldwide Menace

Narcotics trafficking and abuse affect developing and industrialized nations alike. Just as drug addiction wears down an individual's resources and health, on a larger, national scale it erodes the fragile economies and democratic institutions of the drug-producing countries. The profits made from the drug trade are consolidated in the hands of powerful drug lords who operate apart from the local economy. Drug profits deprive developing nations of real economic growth while drug producers and traffickers grow rich on the work of their impoverished fellow citizens.

Implementing drug control and eradication programs is difficult for many producing countries. The pressures exerted by drug producers and traffickers upon local governments can be potentially destabilizing. Furthermore, in some areas guerrilla groups have joined with drug producers in a "narco-guerrilla" alliance. The terrorists provide armed protection for the producers who pay them with drug profits. The money made by the guerrillas then is used to buy weapons and finance political insurgencies and destabilization campaigns against the democratic government. Notably, Colombia has withstood the killing of ministers, judges, police officers, journalists, and its Attorney General. The political and financial links between guerrillas and traffickers, long evident in Colombia, are now becoming clear in Peru as well.

The widescale corruption, violence, and human destruction associated with the drug problem suggest how deeply it affects all nations. Families are weakened, lives are threatened, and precious resources are wasted on illicit narcotics. In parts of Latin America and the Middle East, hashish and cocaine abuse is becoming increasingly alarming. In Mexico, the single largest exporter of marijuana to the United States, marijuana use is growing, especially among young people. Heroin abuse is a problem in many parts of Asia, including Burma, Hong Kong, Thailand, and Pakistan.

In the United States and other industrialized nations, the drug problem is equally devastating. Americans have the sad distinction of being the major consumers of illegal drugs. Billions of dollars are spent on illicit narcotics in this country, making it necessary for the government to divert resources from other programs to combat the drug problem and the crimina

Ultimately, self-government in the political sense depends on self-government in the personal and moral sense. There can be no compromises here. A person must say "no" to drug abuse or eventually he will say "no" to life. A nation must say "no" to narcotics or eventually it will say "no" to democracy.

Secretary Shultz, August 8, 1984
La Paz, Bolivia

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activity it spawns. In the long run, the United States is affected domestically by the lowered industrial output caused by drug use in the workplace.

The demand for illicit narcotics in the United States and the production and trafficking of drugs are two sides of the same coin. Current policies aim to reduce the demand for and supply of drugs. In addition, the United States accepts responsibility for its part of this international problem by pursuing policies which also focus on the treatment and prevention of drug abuse.

Drug Production, Trafficking, and Consumption Abroad

Virtually all of the cocaine, most of the marijuana, and nearly one-third of the heroin consumed in the United States are produced in the Western Hemisphere. Peru and Bolivia are the primary cultivators of coca, the plant from which cocaine and its deadly derivative "crack" are made. Colombia is the major producer of refined cocaine. The raw coca is smuggled across the Andes from Peru and Bolivia into Colombia where it is processed in clandestine laboratories, often hidden deep in the jungle. Once refined and prepared for shipment, the cocaine is sent to the United States through Mexico, Panama, Jamaica, and The Bahamas, as well as other Central American and Caribbean countries.

Opium, from which heroin is made, is grown mainly in Laos, Burma, Thailand, Pakistan, Iran, and Afghanistan as well as Mexico. Diplomatic efforts to reduce these countries' production of opium have led to a reduction in total output. Most notably,



A farmer harvests illicit opium poppies that drug lords will refine into opium, morphine, and heroin.

the Burmese Government's ambitious aerial spraying campaign and Pakistan's cutback in cultivation combined to reduce total Asian opium production in 1988. Malaysia, although not a drug-producing country, considers drug trafficking its major national security concern and works closely with U.S. agencies and multilateral organizations in its efforts to end opium trafficking.

Marijuana is produced in Mexico, Jamaica, Colombia, Belize, and the United States. Colombia has undertaken an extremely successful marijuana eradication program in traditional growing areas, although cultivation in new areas has continued to increase total production. Jamaica reduced its net marijuana produc

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tion to 455 metric tons in 1987, down from an estimated 1,755 metric tons in 1986. Belize expanded its eradication strategy to counter new growing patterns, resulting in the destruction of an estimated 80% of the marijuana crop.

Hashish, derived from the cannabis plant, is produced mainly in Lebanon, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Morocco. Less bulky than marijuana, hashish and hashish oil are more easily transported and, therefore, easier for traffickers to conceal in illegal shipments to the United States and Europe. With UN assistance, Morocco began a limited crop eradication and substitution program in 1987. Although a positive step, the program initially is not expected to cause a major decrease in production figures.

In the past, many countries with large illicit drug exports were thought to be relatively free of drug abuse. However, many of these producer countries have become user nations themselves. In Bolivia, where many of the workers in the cocaine trade are paid in coca paste rather than in cash, coca addiction is growing rapidly. Colombia and Peru estimate that they have nearly 600,000 and 138,000 users of cocaine, respectively. Dozens of other producing nations report an increase in drug abuse. The growth of addiction further burdens developing countries struggling to improve their economies.

Role of the State Department

With other federal agencies, the Department of State confronts the illicit drug trade. Through multilateral and country-to-country negotiations, the State Department coordinates efforts to combat drug production and trafficking. Strict enforcement of customs laws and international trade restrictions has led to the apprehension and conviction of hundreds of known drug traffickers. Additionally, through a process called "certification," the United States is able to offer an economic incentive to drug-trafficking nations that receive U.S. assistance. Such countries can be denied up to half of their annual assistance if they do not take action against drug production and trafficking. Additionally, since 1981, the United States has tripled its drug enforcement budget, and a 13% increase has been requested for fiscal year 1989 for a total of \$3.8 billion.



As part of the narcotics control program of the Government of Belize, young people learn about peer pressure and how to "say no" to drugs.

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The United States has four major goals in its campaign against international narcotics:

- Stop the flow of illegal narcotics into this country;
- Decrease tolerance of drug use at home and stimulate support for effective narcotics control abroad;
- Eliminate major trafficking networks; and
- Secure increased international cooperation.

The Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics Matters works with U.S. law enforcement agencies as well as with foreign countries to tackle the drug problem. Its main antidrug activities are in the form of:

- Support for crop eradication of opium, coca, and marijuana;
- Helping other nations strengthen their law enforcement and judicial systems;
- Working with foreign governments to develop alternative sources of income for farmers who abandon narcotics cultivation in countries where narcotics cultivation is traditional; and
- Providing information and assistance for help in drug abuse prevention and treatment.

The United States works directly with the governments of drug-producing and -trafficking countries as well as through international organizations, such as the United Nations and the Organization of

The Certification Process

The Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 established the "certification" process that applies to drug-producing or -transit countries that receive U.S. foreign assistance. Under this law, the President must certify to Congress that countries involved in the drug trade have cooperated fully with U.S. efforts or have taken adequate steps on their own to combat illicit narcotics production, drug trafficking, and money laundering. Certain kinds of U.S. foreign assistance are withheld at the beginning of each fiscal year until the President submits his certification report on March 1 of the following calendar year. At the same time, the United States opposes any loans to decertified countries by multilateral banks or development organizations. The statute requires positive performance on drug control issues in order to receive foreign aid. If granted certification, the countries then are able to receive aid and loans.

In 1988, President Reagan certified that 17 countries were cooperating fully with U.S. efforts and would be able to receive foreign assistance funds and that 3 countries should be certified for U.S. national security interests. Four countries—Afghanistan, Iran, Panama, and Syria—were not certified.

To evaluate efforts to combat the drug problem, the Department of State considers the following:

- Capability to carry out eradication programs;
- Different political and legal systems and efforts to strengthen trial and prosecution procedures; and
- Cultural, social, geographic, and resource situations.

Some nations have fought against the spreading cultivation of narcotics despite overwhelming disadvantages; others still have much to do. Virtually every country can do more to eliminate illicit drug trafficking. Cooperation with the United States in extradition and local conviction are measures of determination to combat the drug problem.

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American States. At the June 1987 UN International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, world leaders pledged immediate action to deal with the problem. The multimillion-dollar UN Fund for Drug Abuse Control supports and assists drug control and demand reduction programs in Latin America, Asia, and Africa.

With other nations, the United States promotes the eradication and interdiction of illegal drugs in other ways. Twenty-three countries have joined the United States in carrying out drug eradication programs. Fifteen of them have American narcotic assistance units where narcotic coordinators at U.S. embassies work with local authorities to reduce illicit drug supply and alert local citizens to the dangers of drug abuse. Mutual legal assistance treaties between the United States and other

countries help apprehend and convict traffickers and money launderers. The United States and Latin American governments are working together to identify a safe and effective herbicide to help cut coca production in South America. Additionally, in June 1988, the leaders of the seven major Western industrialized countries at the Toronto economic summit approved U.S. proposals for "increased international cooperation" to fight the drug problem and jointly to support an international convention against illicit trafficking.

Other efforts include interdiction aimed at stopping the flow of drugs into the United States, such as cargo inspections, border searches, and seizures on the high seas. Customs officials and Coast Guard officers work closely with the State Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration to coordinate such activities.

The Task Ahead

Federal, state, and local health and education officials are making Americans aware of the adverse effects of drugs on our lives and on our society. At the international level, the Department of State is helping drug-producing countries eliminate the cultivation, processing, and trafficking of illegal narcotics. American relations with foreign countries are based on a delicate balance of political, economic, and social factors. The illicit narcotics trade, with its accompanying black market economies and official corruption, hampers the development of healthy and constructive relationships based on mutual interests.

To be totally effective, the eradication of drug crops must be accompanied by a decrease in demand for illicit narcotics. At



U.S. Army pilots and Drug Enforcement Administration agents confer with Bolivian police during a raid on illicit drug laboratories in Bolivia. ("Soldiers" Magazine/Dave Schad)

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tempts to bring the domestic demand under control have been increasingly effective in the United States and, combined with interdiction and eradication programs, present the only possibility for elimination of the drug menace.

Solving the drug problem presents enormous difficulties. No modern society ever has witnessed a more debilitating force of such human and moral dimensions as drug abuse. It is the ultimate "equalizer," paying no heed to social strata or race. It destroys the user and ultimately the producer, but only after it has destroyed many in between.

Still progress has been made: domestic antidrug campaigns and programs are beginning to discourage consumption, reduce demand, and punish users and suppliers; friends and allies are working to eliminate illicit crops; laboratories, aircraft, and landing fields are being destroyed; traffickers are being arrested, tried, and convicted and their assets seized. As free countries consult together and struggle against powerful enemies to assert the supremacy of law and education, the world may be seeing a turning point in the war against narcotics. But much remains to be done. Governments increasingly are cooperating to reduce and eliminate production and trafficking, but all citizens share in the responsibility. ■

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